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THE HINDU

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2022

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
16 pages • ₹6.00

India, Denmark to strengthen Green Strategic Partnership
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Communal violence breaks out in Jodhpur, curfew imposed
page 11

Recorded deaths rose from 76 lakh in 2019 to 81 lakh in 2020
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Dhawan and Rabada star in Kings' easy win over Titans
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NEARBY

Tomato price goes through the roof
BENGALURU
Over the past week, the price of tomatoes has seen a substantial increase. Currently, the price in the wholesale market is between ₹45 and ₹50 per kg, while in retail, it is being sold at ₹60 to ₹70 per kg.
BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 4

Swiggy to use drones to replenish grocery stocks
BENGALURU
Swiggy will deploy drones on a pilot basis to execute deliveries for its grocery service Instamart. After an extensive evaluation process covering legal, financial, and technical aspects, the company has finalised four firms for the trials.
BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 4

'Wildlife board nod must for Jog Falls projects'
MYSURU
The Forest Department has directed the Jog Management Authority to get environment and wildlife clearance from the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife for the proposed Tourism Development Project at Jog Falls in Shivamogga district.
KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 5

OPPORTUNITIES ▸ PAGE 2

April exports cross $38 bn, deficit widens

Outbound shipments slip 9.5% from March 2022 levels

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India exported merchandise estimated at $38.19 billion in April 2022, a 24.2% increase from a year earlier but 9.5% lower than the record $42.2 billion shipped out in March, official estimates released on Tuesday show.

The trade deficit, however, expanded to $20.07 billion from $18.5 billion in March, as imports grew at a faster 26.6% pace to $58.26 billion. Sequentially, goods imports declined 4.1% last month from March's level.

Gold imports fell by a sharp 73% year-on-year to just $1.7 billion, even as coal imports more than doubled to over $4.7 billion from $2 billion a year earlier. Petroleum imports comprising crude and products surged 81.2% to exceed $19.5 billion, and made up a third of the total imports in the month.

"India's goods trade deficit has crossed $200 billion for a 12-month period for the first time in April 2022," said Richard Rossow, Wadhwani chair in U.S.-India Policy Studies at the Washington-based security think tank, CSIS. Petroleum imports alone had accounted for $172 billion during this period, he pointed out.

ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar also noted that higher oil imports were entirely responsible for the trade deficit's rise from $15.3 billion in April 2021.

"Unless commodity prices recede appreciably, we expect the merchandise trade deficit to print above $20 billion in a majority of the months of 2022-23," she warned.

Ukraine war fallout

India's goods exports hit a record $420 billion in 2021-22, while imports also hit an all-time high of about $612 billion, leading to a $192 billion deficit in the last financial year.

"Although the non-oil trade deficit remained stable in April, there was a shift in its composition, with a plunge in gold imports being offset by a rise in non-oil, non-gold imports such as coal and chemicals, an unsavoury yet expected fallout of the higher commodity prices engendered by the Russia-Ukraine conflict," Ms. Nayar observed.

Among India's top 10 export commodities, gems and jewellery exports dipped by a marginal 2.1% in April, while rice exports fell 14.24%.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Trade tango

India's merchandise exports rose by 24% (year-on-year) to $38 billion in April, while imports outpaced them by increasing 27% to $58 billion

Most exported commodities	Growth (%)
Petroleum products	113.21
Engineering goods	15.38
Gems and Jewellery	-2.11
Most imported commodities	**Growth (%)**
Coal and coke	136.39
Petroleum and crude	81.21
Electronic goods	28.63

FIR against Raj; police out in strength in Maharashtra

MNS chief urged cadres to play hymn outside mosques today

THE HINDU BUREAU
MUMBAI/PUNE

The Aurangabad police on Tuesday lodged a first information report (FIR) against Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray, charging him with the intent to cause rioting, in connection with his speech on May 1 at a party rally.

In his speech, Mr. Thackeray had exhorted party workers to play the *Hanuman Chalisa* over loudspeakers "in twice the volume" in front of mosques if their speakers were not removed by the end of Tuesday.

Maharashtra's Director-General of Police Rajnish Seth told presspersons in Mumbai that the police were prepared to deal with any law and order situation. All leaves of police personnel had been cancelled. A total of 87 companies of the State Reserve Police Force had been mobilised and more than 30,000 home guards were deployed across the State.

Mr. Raj Thackeray, in a statement released on Tuesday night, said, "I appeal to all Hindus that tomorrow, the 4th of May, if you hear the loudspeakers blaring with azan; in those very places, play the Hanuman Chalisa on the loudspeakers! That's when they will realise, the hindrance of these loudspeakers!"

Alert up: Security has been beefed up outside MNS president Raj Thackeray's residence in Mumbai. • PTI

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

BJP rules out leadership change in State

B.S. SATISH KUMAR
BENGALURU

Though there has been speculation of a possible change of guard in the BJP-led Government in Karnataka, the party central leadership is learnt to have taken a firm decision of not changing the Chief Minister.

"There is no question of changing the Chief Minister at this juncture," a source in the BJP central leadership told *The Hindu*.

There have been rumours of changing the Chief Minister, bolstered by the party's experiment of leadership change in other States. Sources in the BJP high command, however, said leadership change in Karnataka is not on the agenda, especially when just around a year is left for elections to the State Assembly.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 6

U.S. Supreme Court to 'annul' abortion right

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden called upon American voters on Tuesday to defend the "fundamental" right to abortion after a leaked draft suggested that the Supreme Court is poised to strike down the long-standing decision in the 1973 Roe v Wade case protecting a woman's right to terminate a pregnancy.

The opinion by the conservative majority in the court hit Washington like a thunderclap late on Monday, setting up a potentially historic turning point on a hot-button issue.

If the draft is made official, it would shred half a century of constitutional protections for abortion rights.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Two tribal men lynched on suspicion of cow slaughter

Bajrang Dal behind attack, says Madhya Pradesh Congress

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SEONI

Two tribal men died after they were assaulted allegedly by a group of 15 to 20 people over suspicion of cow slaughter at Simaria in Seoni district of Madhya Pradesh, the police said on Tuesday. Another person was injured.

Some 20 people have been booked, six of them on murder charge.

The Opposition Congress in the BJP-ruled State have alleged that the attackers belong to the Bajrang Dal.

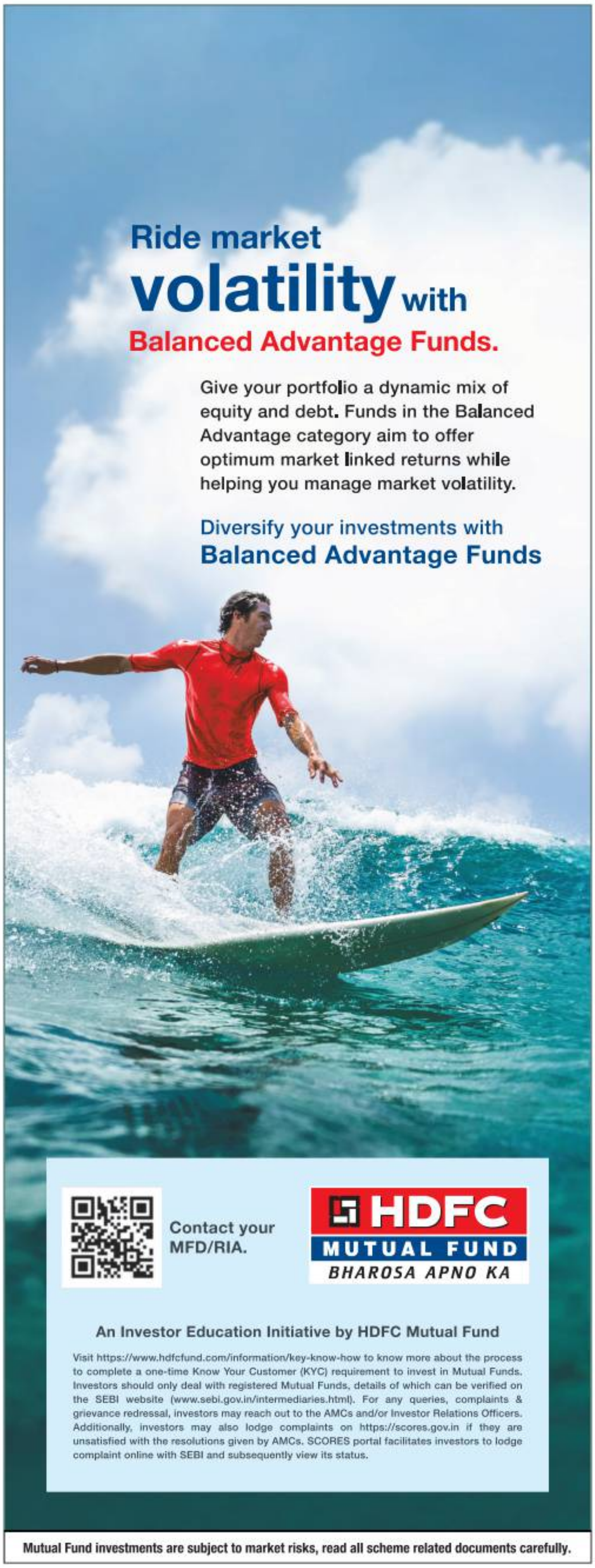
The mob allegedly went to the house of Sampat Batti of Sagar and Dhansa of Simaria, accused them of killing a cow and assaulted them between 2.30 a.m. and 3 a.m. on Monday. "The two men died while being taken to hospital and another sustained minor injuries. A post-mortem is yet to be conducted," Additional Superintendent of Police S.K. Maravi said.

> I demand from the government that strict action be taken against the culprits by announcing a high-level inquiry. All possible help should be given to the families of the victims
>
> KAMAL NATH
> MADHYA PRADESH CONGRESS PRESIDENT AND FORMER CM

Search on for accused

"A case of murder has been registered at the Kuarai police station and police teams are searching for the accused. Some of the accused are named [in the complaint] and others are unidentified. We have taken two or three suspects into custody. Some 12 kg of meat has been found in the victims' house," Mr. Maravi said.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10



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Text & Context

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NEWS IN NUMBERS

Aiding Sri Lanka

3 In $ billion, the amount India has committed to debt-ridden Sri Lanka in loans, credit lines and credit swaps since January this year, according to the Indian High Commission. The island nation is going through its worst economic crisis since independence. On Monday, India had extended its current credit line by a further $200 million to replenish Sri Lanka's rapidly depleting fuel stocks. The Indian High Commission also said that the $1 billion credit facility for the purchase of food, medicines and other essential commodities was already operational. PTI

Palestinians detained

604 The number of Palestinian detainees held without charge or trial by Israel as of May, the highest number since 2016, according to Israeli rights group, HaMoked. While Israel says it uses administrative detention to hold dangerous militants, Palestinians and the rights groups say that the system is widely abused with detainees held for months or years without seeing the evidence against them. The organisation added that 2,441 Palestinians are serving sentences after being convicted in military courts. AP

Hike in coal production

28 In percentage, the rise in India's coal production to 66.1 million tonnes (MT) in April amid high demand from thermal power plants as the country grapples with power shortages. The overall coal production was at 51.6 MT in April 2021. Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and its subsidiaries produced 53.4 MT of coal, production by Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL) stood at 5.3 MT and captive mines produced 7.3 MT during the last month. The coal ministry stressed that it was planning to augment its dispatches further. PTI

AC sales spike

17.5 In lakhs, the number of air conditioners (AC) sold in April in the country, an all-time high, driven by the early arrival of summer and intense heatwaves. The residential air conditioner makers are looking forward to record sales of around 90 lakh units in 2022, said the Consumer Electronics and Appliances Manufacturers Association (CEAMA). Eric Braganza, president of the CEAMA warned of a shortage in supply of certain product models due to a lack in the supply of certain AC components. PTI

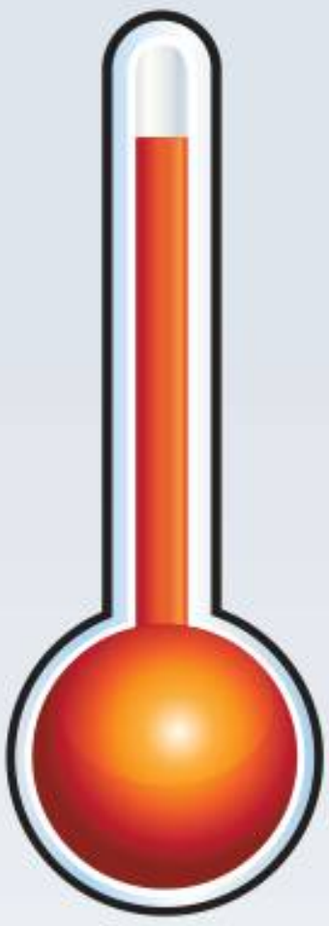
LIC raises funds

5,627 In ₹ crore, the amount raised by the insurance behemoth, Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) from anchor investors led primarily by domestic institutions ahead of its mega initial public offering (IPO), according to the company. Anchor investors portion of 5.9 crore equity shares was subscribed at ₹949 per equity share, the insurer said in an early morning filing to exchanges. Investments were also made by domestic insurance companies and pension funds. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

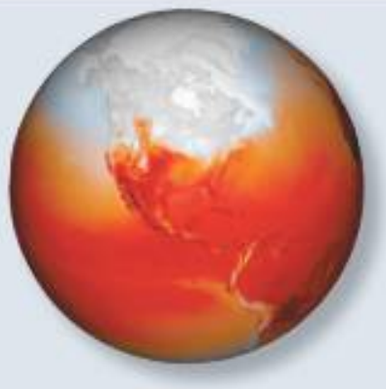
GRAPHICALLY SPEAKING

In a hot mess



In March and April, extremely high temperatures were recorded across India. With a monthly average maximum of 33.1°C, India as a whole recorded its hottest March in at least the past 120 years for which data are available. Throughout April, due to an intense heatwave, cities across India recorded a maximum temperature of more than 44°C. The extreme heat led to a substantial increase in forest fires. Moreover, power demand reached the highest levels in at least a decade. The extreme weather has adversely affected the production of essential crops such as wheat and fruits such as mangoes and lemons.

By **Rebecca Rose Varghese**



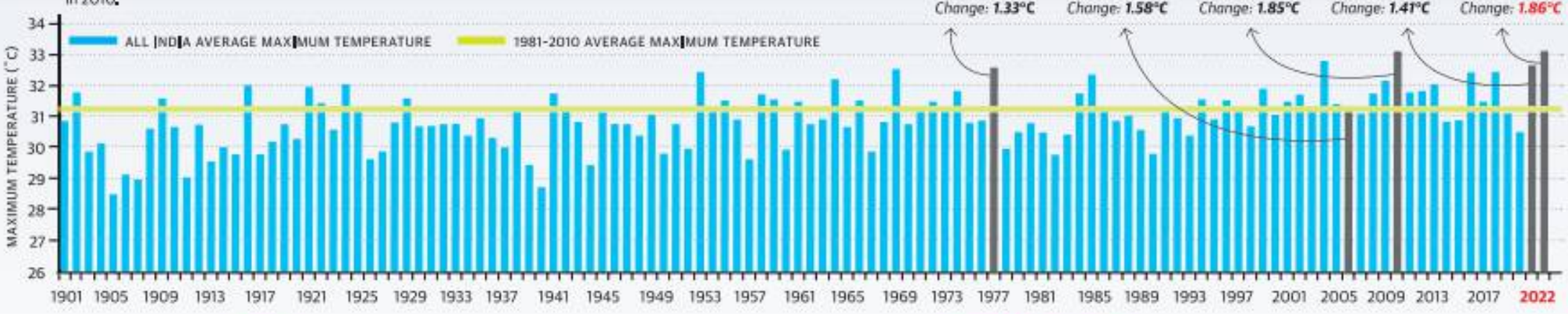
RED HOT REGION
The map shows the modelled air temperatures on April 27, derived from the Goddard Earth Observing System (GEOS) model. Many cities across east, central, and northwest India recorded >44°C. The maximum temperature was relatively lower in other nations/continents.

MAXIMUM 2-METRE AIR TEMPERATURE (°C)
≤0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 ≥45

■ *While temperatures were relatively higher in India, it was part of a global pattern. Globally, March 2022 was Earth's fifth-warmest on record. According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the average temperature in March 2022 was 0.95°C above the 20th century average. The seven warmest Marches have occurred since 2015, while the 10 warmest Marches have occurred since 2002*

HOTTEST MARCH
The chart shows the average maximum temperature across India, in March, between 1901 and 2022. The average maximum temperature of 33.1°C recorded this year was the hottest for any March in this time period. The second hottest was recorded in 2010.

Year: 1977	Year: 2004	Year: 2010	Year: 2021	Year: 2022
Rank: 5	Rank: 3	Rank: 2	Rank: 4	Rank: 1
Tmax: 32.57°C	Tmax: 32.82°C	Tmax: 33.09°C	Tmax: 32.65°C	Tmax: 33.1°C
Change: 1.33°C	Change: 1.58°C	Change: 1.85°C	Change: 1.41°C	Change: 1.86°C



HOT ACROSS REGIONS
The tables list the five hottest Marches recorded across northwest, northeast and central India between 1901 and 2022. The rankings are based on maximum temperatures (Tmax) recorded in a region. This year's March was the hottest in the northwest and third hottest in the northeast

■ *March of 2022 features in the top five lists across the three regions. Also, the maximum temperature was about 2°C higher in central India than in India as a whole, in March 2022. Whereas it was about 2.4°C lower than the Indian average in northwest India.*

Northwest India				
Year	Tmax	Normal	Anomaly	Rank
2022	**30.726**	**26.82**	**3.91**	**1**
2004	30.678	26.82	3.86	2
2010	30.632	26.82	3.81	3
1977	30.136	26.82	3.32	4
1953	29.77	26.82	2.95	5

Northeast India				
Year	Tmax	Normal	Anomaly	Rank
1909	33.03	30.21	2.82	1
1924	32.88	30.21	2.67	2
2022	**32.45**	**30.21**	**2.24**	**3**
1977	32.43	30.21	2.22	4
1958	32.13	30.21	1.92	5

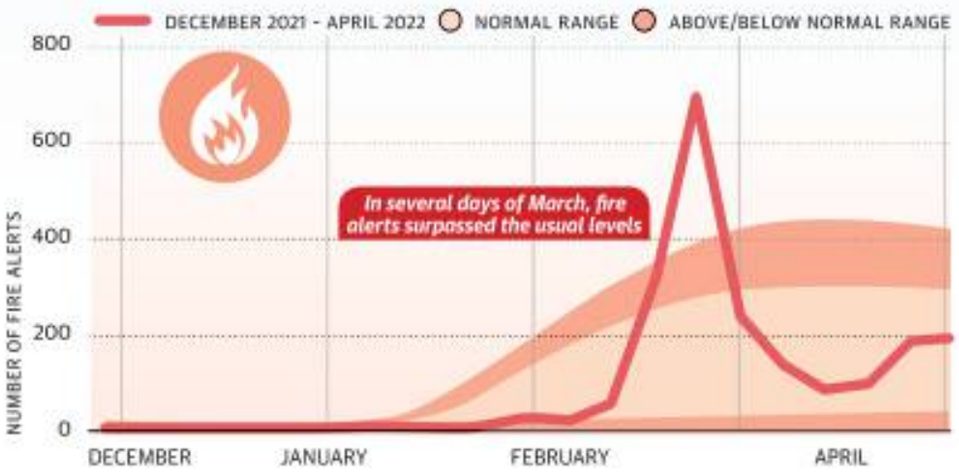
Central India				
Year	Tmax	Normal	Anomaly	Rank
1953	35.3	33.58	1.72	1
2022	**35.2**	**33.58**	**1.62**	**2**
1977	35.19	33.58	1.61	3
2004	35.14	33.58	1.56	4
2021	35.13	33.58	1.55	5

Source: NASA Earth observatory, Global forest watch, Ministry of Earth Science, POSOCO

Graphic: **L.Balamurugan**

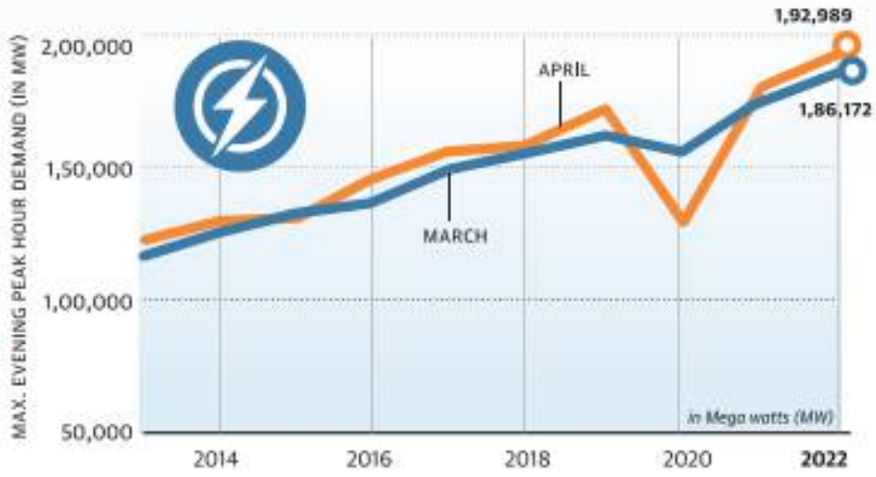
ON FIRE
The chart shows the weekly fire alerts in India between December 1 and April 25. The peach bands represent the normal range of fire alerts in the period (with confidence levels). The red line shows the fire alerts between December 1, 2021, and April 25, 2022

■ *The data were gathered from NASA's Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS). It reported 2,060 fire alerts between February 14, 2022 and May 2, 2022 considering high confidence alerts alone. The number of alerts peaked at 700 in the second week of March 2022*



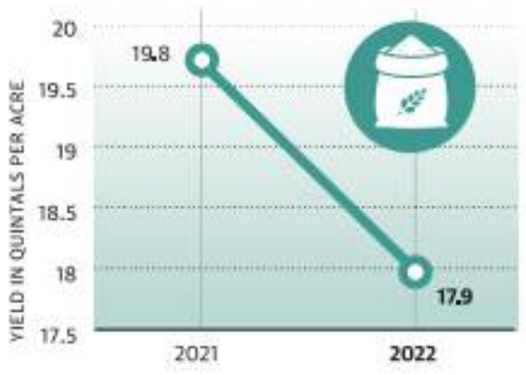
POWER DEMAND PEAKS
The chart shows the maximum evening peak hour demand met at the national level in March and April from 2013 to 2022. The difference between the demand met in April between 2022 and 2021 is more than 12,000 MW

■ *The peak in power demand has come at a time when India is facing a coal supply crisis. As on May 1, 102 out of the 173 thermal power plants in India have <25% of stock (considered as critical level). Overall, only 33% of the total stock required is available in all the plants put together*



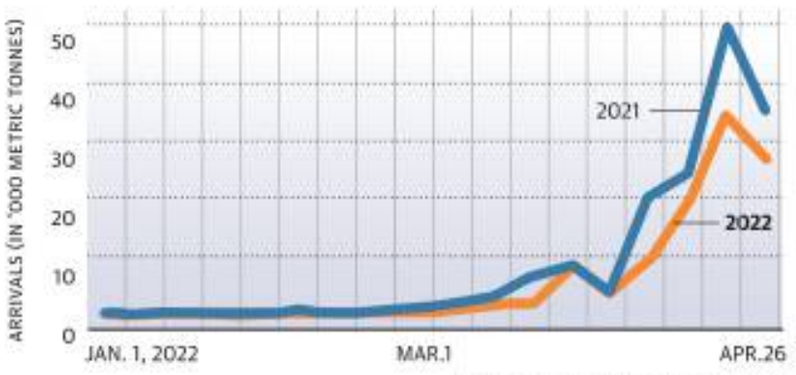
POOR YIELD
Evidence from Punjab shows that the wheat arrivals in mandis have been 20% lower this year compared to 2021. The primary reason for the reduction is the extreme levels of heat. The average temperature in April has been consistently above the 40°C mark across Punjab. This has reduced the wheat yield significantly this year. Moreover, extreme heat this year aligned with the mango flowering season in the north. This resulted in the mango flowers falling off the trees/ wilting before it could mature. Consequently, mango arrivals in markets dropped, pushing up the retail prices. A similar pattern was observed in the case of lemons

WHEAT YIELD
Crop cutting experiments show that due to the extreme heat, the yield of wheat in Punjab has dipped this year. Last year, the wheat productivity was 19.7 quintals per acre, while the average yield this year is below 18 quintals per acre. However, of the 2,000 crop cutting experiments, only 1,200 have been completed till date



MANGO ARRIVALS
The chart shows the mango arrivals in India for the years 2021 and 2022 between the months of January and April. The arrivals declined by over 30% in 2022

■ *In 2022, 1,05,000 tonnes of mangoes arrived between January and April. In 2021, the arrivals were 50,000 tonnes more for the corresponding period*



With inputs from **Vignesh Radhakrishnan**

THE HINDU

OPPORTUNITIES

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT • JOBS • TECHNOLOGY

Employees take up additional role as 'mental health diplomat'

An increasing number of organisations are raising a team of volunteers who can guide colleagues in distress towards seeking professional help

LIFFY THOMAS

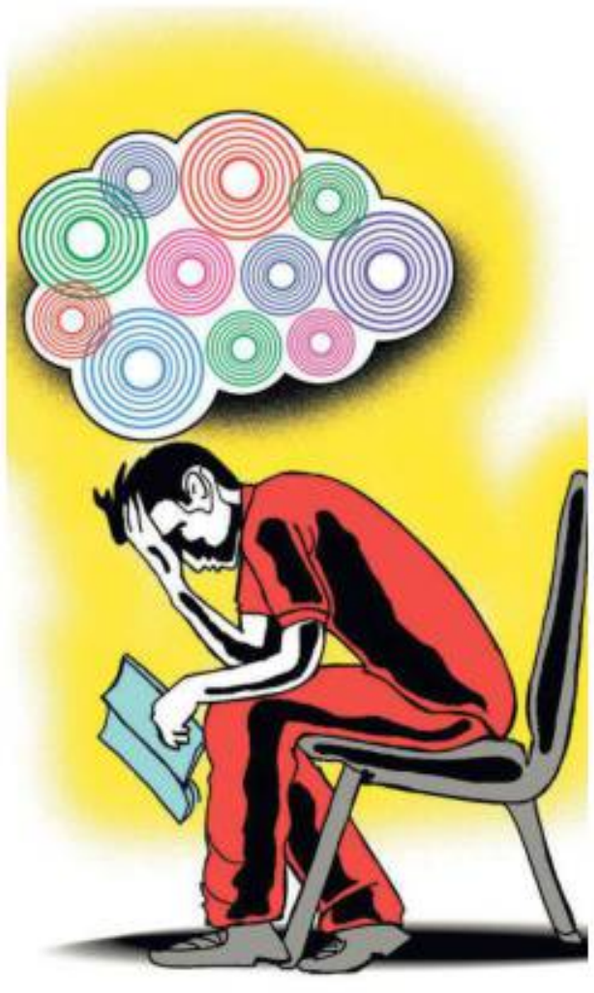


ILLUSTRATION: SATHEESH VELUNEZHI

These professionals are variously named, their roles defined in grand terms. Sample these – 'mental health diplomats'; 'mental health task force'; 'mental health champions at workplace' and 'mental health allies'.

The pandemic has provided just the right amount of push for corporates to accord mental health the attention and importance it always deserved, but was stubbornly denied.

Organisations are now celebrating employees who serve as "first responders", ensuring that a colleague battling a mental health issue receives prompt help.

Johnson & Johnson calls these employees 'Mental Health Diplomats' by the name of an initiative it launched.

These employees had volunteered to be advocates for mental wellbeing and over 90 are on board, with 15 of them from the core team, notes a communication from the company.

The mental health diplomats are drawn from various verticals and they have managed at least one meet-up every month.

They are equipped to volunteer in this manner: They are trained to offer support to colleagues faced with mental-health challenges.

A certification

Procter & Gamble has "a task force of certified mental health first-aiders". These employees are trained and certified by Mental Health First Aid India to guide anyone up against mental health issues and towards professional help.

By virtue of their training, members of a task force are capable of fostering an open environment for people that would allow them to discuss their mental-health challenges without any inhibitions.

The company has assigned one mental-health first-aider for every work group and is planning to train more employees within the organisation to for this role.

The experience of many organisations, particularly in recent times, is that trained mental health champions within teams are welcomed and accepted when they seek to raise awareness about mental health

Across departments

Manoj Chandran, CEO, White Swan Foundation, is a staunch believer in the notion that employee mental-health initiatives should come from within, being driven by the employees themselves.

Manoj notes that one department can be the custodian of any mental-health programme, but the group should be multi-departmental, consisting of "mental health champions" from as many departments as can be involved in it.

In 2020, White Swan Foundation started what it called 'Mental Health Champions at Workplace' inviting organisations to nominate an employee who will be trained to have a basic understanding of mental health and given a toolkit to facilitate informal conversations on mental health in their own organisations.

Manoj emphasises that these "workplace champions" must go beyond a "curative approach and help build an ecosystem in the organisation, one that should involve even small teams".

He illustrates the idea: "In a company I know, mental health champions attend team meetings to be really effective in their volunteering work."

Vandita Gupta – who is director, Ethicon Wound Closure, Bio Surgery at Johnson & Johnson India – volunteers as lead for the company's Mental Health Diplomats programme, and she observes that ever since this support group was formed, innumerable interventions have been effected.

A new challenge

With whole workforces now functioning across different work formats, including the hybrid work model, is the lack of physical presence proving to be a handicap while reaching out to employees in distress.

Vandita, who leads a team of 400 employees, agrees that in a hybrid work model – more so, in a fully remote work model – effecting mental-health interventions would be challenge.

"Sometimes, you need to go beyond those formal calls and meetings to consciously understand a person. Sometimes, some basic questions can even help the person open up about their problems," says Vandita.

At Johnson and Johnson, Vandita says, they run an annual mental health survey for associates that provides data-based inputs about the different interventions associates are looking for.

Keep it simple

Manoj notes that organisations should start small.

"Pick up small campaigns for a focussed group or a department. You do not always have to wait to start afresh; it could even be a part of a larger event, but push the mental health agenda and let it be a topic of conversation," says Manoj, and cites a programme run by Bosch Global Software – 'Mental Health Allies'.

The leadership has to play a crucial role in sustaining such initiatives. Vandita notes that when efforts are being made to normalise conversations around mental health, it is essential that leaders also step forward and facilitate those conversations.

Finland beckons Indian tech talent

Twenty corporates are inviting talented tech candidates from India to apply for 60 new positions, as part of the 'Find your Finnish Future' campaign

A representational image from Finland

Finland wants to make common cause with India's tech talent. The invitation comes from none other than Business Finland, placed directly under the Finnish Ministry of Employment and Economy.

A communication from Business Finland reveals that "big-named companies such as Nokia, IQM Quantum Computers are among twenty corporates inviting talented tech candidates from India to apply for more than 60 exciting, new positions, as part of the 'Find your Finnish Future - campaign'."

The Campaign places the Nordic country among "the global hubs of scientific research, investors, and innovation excellence", and proceeds to spotlight factors that earn it this coveted position – "state-of-the-art infrastructure, supporting legislation, forward-thinking governmental entities, and an eco-system that allows research organisations, industry providers, and commercial companies (ranging from start-ups to multinational corporations) to work under one roof to share a common agenda and goal." The pitch in fact goes beyond business, and includes the Finnish philosophy of living.

"Finland is also famed for a good work-life balance, supported by long holidays and reasonable working hours – allowing its people to fulfil their hobbies and spend time with loved ones," the communication notes.

And it includes nature in the raw; and also the country's social infrastructure.

"For those who enjoy the outdoors, Finland is home to some of the cleanest nature in the world. Its proximity to forests, clean air, and water makes the country a healthy place to live and raise children whilst also offering easy access to amenities and city life. High-quality healthcare, a world-class education system, and low crime records are other good reasons for candidates to submit their applications," the campaign continues.

In the communication, Paavo Virkkunen, executive director, Business Finland, says: "Finland highly values diversity and equality; it has a vibrant innovation ecosystem, a booming start-up scene, and one of the leading ICT and health tech industries in the world. We also offer a lifestyle in which it is possible to develop a career and still spend time with family and friends."

As a Finnish government organisation, Business Finland attends to the areas of innovation funding and trade; and travel and investment promotion, among others. Business Finland has over 700 associates with various specialisations working in over 40 offices globally and in 16 regional offices around Finland.

For additional information on career opportunities in Finland, visit: www.workinfinland.com

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For more details, log on to **www.mbgips.in**. Last date of the receipt of application is 06.06.2022.

- Director

IIT Tirupati Navavishkar I-Hub Foundation
Indian Institute of Technology Tirupati,
Yerpedu-Venkatagiri Road, Yerpedu Post,
Tirupati District, Andhra Pradesh-517619, INDIA

Date: 02.05.2022

ADVERTISEMENT FOR RECRUITMENT

IIT Tirupati Navavishkar I-Hub Foundation (IITTNiF), a Section 8 Company invites applications from dynamic, result oriented, aspiring individuals for filling up various Administrative, Technical and Managerial posts. For more details about the advertisements please visit "Careers"on our website https://iittnif.com/

SCAN ME

SBI
State Bank of India
Central Recruitment & Promotion Department
Corporate Centre, Mumbai
Phone: 022-22820427; Fax: 022-22820411

RECRUITMENT OF SPECIALIST CADRE OFFICERS IN SBI ON REGULAR/ CONTRACT BASIS

Applications are invited from Indian Citizens for the following posts on Regular / Contract Basis

Sl.	Post	Grade	Vacancy
i.	System Officer (Test Engineer)	JMGS-I	2
ii.	System Officer (Web Developer)	JMGS-I	1
iii	System Officer (Performance/ Senior Automation Test Engineer)	MMGS-II	1
iv	System Officer (Project Manager)	MMGS-III	2
v	System Officer (Project Manager)	SMGS-IV	1
vi	Executive (Test Engineer)	Contractual	10
vii	Executive (Interaction Designer)		3
viii	Executive (Web Developer)		1
ix	Executive (Portal Administrator)		3
x	Senior Executive (Performance Automation Test Engineer)		4
xi	Senior Executive (Interaction Designer)		2
xii	Senior Executive (Project Manager)		4
xiii	Senior Special Executive (Project Manager)		1

Eligibility criteria (age, educational qualification, experience etc.), requisite fees and other details are available under **Advertisement No. CRPD/SCO/2022-23/06** on Bank's website https://bank.sbi/web/careers along with a link for online submission of application as well as online payment of application fee. Candidates are advised to go through the detailed advertisement ensuring their eligibility and other details before applying and remitting fees.

- **DATE FOR FILING ONLINE APPLICATION & PAYMENT OF FEE: 27.04.2022 TO 17.05.2022**

For any query, please write to us through link **"CONTACT US" → "Post Your Query"** which is available on Bank's website.

Place: Mumbai **General Manage**
Date: 27.04.2022 **(RP & PM)**

HINDUSTAN AERONAUTICS LIMITED
HAL Corporate Office 15/1, Cubbon Road, Bengaluru – 560001

SOAR TO GREAT HEIGHTS WITH HAL
(Advt. No. HAL/HR/36(98)/2022/02)

HAL, a Navratna Central Public Sector Undertaking and a premier Aeronautical Industry of South East Asia, with 20 Production / Overhaul Divisions, 10 co-located R&D Centres and 1 Facility Management Division, spread across the Country, invites Applications for the following Posts for its various Divisions / R&D Centres / Offices:

Sl. No.	Post Name	Location	Grade	No. of posts
a	Officer (Official Language)	Bangalore, Korwa, Koraput & Kanpur	II	4
b	Security Officer	Bangalore, Kasargod, Koraput & Nasik	II	6

Detailed Advertisement is available on the HAL Website **www.hal-india.co.in**. Interested candidates may visit HAL website for further details w.r.t eligibility criteria, relaxation & concessions, application fee, mode of applying, selection procedure, remuneration, etc. Eligible candidates may forward their duly filled applications, on or before **24.05.2022** in the prescribed format, as per the instructions given in the detailed Advertisement hosted on the Company's website. **Corrigendum / Addendum, if any, will be hosted on the HAL Website only.**

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HIRING

Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.

A Fortune Global 500 Company is looking for energetic and dedicated **Graduate Engineers** to join it's organization from following Disciplines through **GATE 2022:**

- Chemical Engineering (CH)
- Civil Engineering (CE)
- Computer Science & Engineering (CS)
- Electrical Engineering (EE)
- Instrumentation Engineering (IN)
- Mechanical Engineering (ME)
- Metallurgical Engineering (MT)

Interested candidates aspiring to join IndianOil should visit careers section at **https://iocl.com/latest-job-opening** on our website **www.iocl.com to apply** ONLINE for the advertised positions.

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Applications are invited for the posts of Professors / Associate Professors / Assistant Professors:

Department	Qualification & Specializations
Computer Science and Engineering / Information Technology	M.Tech / M.E. (CSE, CSE-AI&ML, CSE-AI, DS and IT)
Electronics & Communication Engineering	M.Tech / M.E. (VLSI, Embedded System, Mechatronics, IOT)
Mechanical Engineering	M.Tech / M.E. (Machine Design, EV Technology, Mechatronics)
Civil Engineering	M.Tech / M.E (Water Resource Engineering, Structural Engineering)
Basic Sciences and Humanities	M.Sc & Ph.D. (Applied Mathematics, Statistics and Probability, Data Science)
Soft Skills Trainer	Post-Graduation with related experience and certifications.

Qualifications: Ph.D. from IITs/NITs/Foreign Universities/reputed universities and candidates submitted thesis shall be given preference. As per AICTE/UGC norms, Research orientation & Career 1st class.

WE VALUE OUR EMPLOYEES WORK-LIFE BALANCE AND SELF DEVELOPMENT

Interested and eligible candidates are requested to send their detailed resume along with all supporting documents with regard to their qualification, experience and last pay drawn, by e-mail to opportunities@gmrit.edu.in on or before 14 May, 2022.

*For further details contact: 9866903004 / 9182128714/9949578454
*You may refer to the HR policies in the Institution website

Visit us at: www.gmrit.org
GMR Nagar, Rajam-532127, Vizianagaram Dist., A.P. Ph: 08941-251592/593

GMR GROUP-IT/26/ PREM ASSOCIATES

SAMSKRUTI COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY
Accredited by NAAC ESTD 2005
(Approved by AICTE New Delhi and Affiliated to JNTUH, Hyderabad)
Ghatkesar, Hyderabad, Telangana – 501301,
www.samskruti.ac.in, Contact:9701368997.

REQUIRE

Associate Professors / Assistant Professors in

CSE

WALK-IN INTERVIEWS on 08-05-2022 (Sunday)
at Radha Regent Hotel ,171,Jawaharlal Nehru Rd,Annai Sathya Nagar, Arumbakkam, Chennai,Tamil Nadu-600106 between 10 AM to 4 PM.

Candidates unable to attend can send their resumes to info@samskruti.ac.in.

- Candidates with M.Tech., CSE are eligible. Attractive Pay Package for deserving candidates.
- For Associate Professors Ph.D. Candidates are preferred. Sd/- Principal

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THE HINDU
Text & Context

CACHE

Lapsus$: how two teenagers hacked big tech firms

What are the methods through which the cyber-crime group attacks companies? Has any action been taken against the masterminds of the group?

THE GIST

- On March 22, authentication platform Okta confirmed that hackers from the cyber-crime group Lapsus$ had tried intruding into its system three months earlier.
- Lapsus$ is said to be based in South America and is led by two teenagers, a 16-year-old and a 17-year-old. The group is relatively new but has successfully breached major firms like Microsoft. It has also publicly taunted their victims, leaking their source code and internal documents.
- Their hacking tactics include phone-based social engineering, SIM-swapping to facilitate account takeover, accessing personal email accounts of employees at target organisations etc.

ABHISHEK CHATTERJEE

The story so far: On March 22, authentication platform Okta confirmed that hackers had tried intruding into its system three months earlier. The platform confirmed an attacker had access to one of its employees' laptops in January, and that a portion of its clients may have been affected because of the breach. The firm's disclosure came after hacking group Lapsus$ shared screengrabs of Okta's internal systems on messaging platform Telegram. The images included Okta's Slack channels and its cloudflare interface. In a recent filing, Okta shared that it has over 15,000 clients globally, which includes bike brand Peloton, speaker maker Sonos, and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Just a day prior to sharing the screenshots, on March 21, Lapsus$ shared on social media that they had stolen source codes from a number of large tech firms. They claimed responsibility for breach and dissemination of confidential data.

How was Okta's system hacked?

On January 20, 2022, the Okta's security team was alerted that a new factor was added to a Sitel customer support engineer's Okta account from a new location. Sitel is Okta's third-party partner providing customer support engineers to the authentication company. This added factor was a password. The team investigated the alert, and escalated it to a security incident. The company's service desk was added to the incident to assist in containing the user's account.

They terminated the user's Okta sessions and suspended the account until the root cause of suspicious activity could be identified and remediated. Okta claimed that the individual attempt was unsuccessful and they had reset the account and notified Sitel.

Its investigation revealed that the screenshots published by the hackers were obtained through remote access to a Sitel-managed computer using Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP). So, while the attacker never gained access to the Okta's service via account takeover, the computer that was logged into Okta was compromised and controlled through the RDP session. RDP is a protocol or technical standard that provides a user with a graphical interface to connect to a desktop computer remotely. The user uses RDP client software for this purpose, while the other computer must run RDP server software.

What do we know about Lapsus$?

The cyber-crime group Lapsus$ is said to be based in South America. The group is relatively new but has successfully breached major firms like Microsoft. It has also publicly taunted their victims, leaking their source code and internal documents. They have even gone to the extent of joining Zoom calls of companies they breached, taunting employees and consultants who are trying to clean up their hack, according to a *Bloomberg* report. The group has an active presence on the messaging app Telegram, and its channel has over 47,000 subscribers.

How does Lapsus$ work ?

Unlike most hacker groups that stay under the radar, Lapsus$ doesn't cover its tracks. They go as far as announcing their attacks on social media or advertising their intent to buy credentials from employees of target organisations. Their tactics include phone-based social engineering, SIM-swapping to facilitate account takeover, accessing personal email accounts of employees at target organisations, and paying employees, suppliers, or business partners of their targets to get their credentials and multifactor authentication (MFA) approval.

They even joined crisis-communication calls of their targets and internal discussion boards like Slack, Teams, conference calls to understand the incident response workflow and their corresponding response, according to Microsoft.

Social engineering efforts include gathering data about a target's business operations, employees, team structures, help desks, crisis response workflows, and supply chain relationships. They spam a target with MFA prompts and call the organisation's help desk to reset a target's credentials. The group can also perform SIM-swapping attacks to access a user's phone number and handle phone-based authentication prompts to sign into the corporate network. They even entice employees of target organisations to buy their credentials. For a fee, the employee must provide their credentials and approve the MFA prompt or have the user install AnyDesk or other remote management software on a corporate workstation allowing the actor to take control of an authenticated system, Microsoft said. On obtaining an employee's credentials they connect to that person's organisation's VPN (virtual private network). They then try to discover additional credentials or exploit unpatched vulnerabilities to intrude into internal servers. They also search code repositories and collaboration platforms for exposed credentials and secrets. They can even access the target's cloud assets to create new virtual machines within the target's cloud environment, and use it for further attacks across the organisation.

What is known about the hackers?

The group is said to be led by two teenagers, a 16-year-old and a 17-year-old. The younger of the two is from Oxford and has been accused of being the leader of Lapsus$. He is also said to be diagnosed with autism. He has been operating under his online alias name "White" or "Breachbase", and is estimated to have made $14 million from hacking, according to a report by *BBC*. The teenager was caught after he was doxxed on a hacker website, after falling out with his business partners. The hackers revealed his name, address, and social media pictures. Doxxing refers to searching and publishing private information about an individual on the internet, with malicious intent to reveal the person's actual identity. The cyber researchers and law enforcement authorities have been tracking "White" for almost a year. They used forensic evidence from the hacks as well as publicly available information to link the teen to the hacking group. Both teenagers were taken into police custody after being charged for hacking computer networks.

Who were targeted by Lapsus$?

The group began targeting organisations in the United Kingdom and South America, and then expanded to global targets. They intrude into computer networks of governments, technology firms, retail outlets, and healthcare organisations.

Besides security firm Okta, the group's other big target was software giant Microsoft. "Our investigation has found a single account had been compromised, granting limited access," Microsoft said in a blog post confirming the breach. Nvidia, Samsung, LG and Globant are some other large firms targeted by the cybercrime gang. The group is also known to take over individual accounts at cryptocurrency exchanges to drain its holdings, Microsoft noted in its blog.

THE DAILY QUIZ

May 4 is observed as Coal Miners' Day in India. Here's a quiz on non-renewable resources and energy systems in India and the world

1 This term first came into use in 1759 and was used to denote entities that were 'obtained by digging' and 'found buried in the earth', according to the Oxford English Dictionary. The term can also refer to long-dead organisms that can be burned for energy. What is the term?

2 X (10 letters) is the highest rank of coal. Hard and brittle, it is often referred to as 'hard coal', containing a high percentage of fixed carbon and a low percentage of volatile matter. Y (7 letters) or 'brown coal' is the lowest grade coal with the least concentration of carbon. It has high moisture content and is mainly used in electricity generation. Identify X and Y.

3 The National Grid is the high-voltage electricity transmission network in India, and is one of the largest operational synchronous grids in the world. However, two Indian territories are not connected to the National Grid. There is no single power grid for these territories owing to their geography and topography, including separation over great distances. Identify the territories.

4 This 2012 Bollywood film, featuring Richa Chadda and Nawazuddin Siddiqui, among others, revolves around the coal mafia of Dhanbad, and the power struggles, politics and vengeance between three crime families. Name the movie.

5 This set of natural gas pipelines in Europe runs under the Baltic Sea from Russia to Germany. These pipelines have been staunchly opposed by several nations due to concerns that it would increase Russia's influence in Europe. Name the pipeline project.

6 Which of the following countries was not among the five founding members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries in 1906? Iran, Iraq, Venezuela, UAE, Saudi Arabia.

7 Natural gas can emerge from the ground and cause eternal fires. In ancient Greece, the gas flames near ancient Lycia did not die by day or night, contributing to the legend of a popular fire-breathing creature. Identify the mythical creature.

◄ Identify this Indian government-owned oil and gas producer whose logo is pictured on the left.

Please send in your answers to the **dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in**

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The recipient of the 2021 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize. **Ans: Maria Ressa, Philippines**
2. The name of the declaration, adopted on May 3, 1991, in Namibia, considered a benchmark for ensuring press freedom around the world. **Ans: The Windhoek Declaration**
3. The article in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which supports the right to freedom of opinion and expression. **Ans: Article 19**
4. This country ranks 177th in the 2021 World Press Freedom Index published by Reporters without Borders. **Ans: China**
5. The organisation in India which started functioning on November 16 to ensure that the press is not fettered by influence or threats. **Ans: Press Council of India**
Visual: . The photojournalist whose picture won the Pulitzer Prize for Feature Photography in 1994. **Ans: Kevin Carter**

Early Birds: Arnasree Chakraborty| Puja Bhartiya| Siddharth Chaturvedi| Sangam Ekka| Priyadarshan Sharma

Compiled by: Ranjani Srinivasan

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

"Good morning sir"

"Good morning"

"Sir, what is the meaning of the sentence 'he dropped a brick'?"

"When you are in company and say something or do something that causes embarrassment to others it would be said that you dropped a brick.

She dropped a brick when she talked about her divorce at his wedding reception.

My uncle is a great one for dropping bricks at parties."

"What is the difference between 'waste' and 'wastage', sir?"

"Waste is used when you want to refer to ineffectual use of money, food, time etc.

Some think it is a waste of time to read novels.

'Wastage' means 'amount wasted'.

Even in a highly organised industry, there will be some wastage.

There has been a wastage of 10 per cent of the goods stored here.

Do you know the meaning of waster?"

"No, sir"

"Waster is slang for good-for-nothing fellow. He is the one who wastes his time and money"

"Sir, is it ninth class or class ninth?"

"It is ninth class.

He is studying in the ninth class.

You can also say 'he is in class nine.' But you can't say 'he is in class ninth'. Please note the spelling of ninth. There is no 'e' after the second 'n'. It is NINTH. NINE but NINTH."

"What is the difference between 'he shot the thief' and 'he shot at the thief', sir?

"'He shot at the thief' means he aimed at the thief but missed the mark. The aim was to shoot him but he didn't succeed. 'He shot the thief' means he hit him."

"Sir, is it correct to say 'I went to foreign'?"

"No, I have been abroad is the most common expression. You can also say 'I have visited several foreign countries.'

I have been outside India several times.

But 'I have been to foreign is wrong'."

"What is the meaning of 'honorary'?"

It means 'servicing without pay'.

He is an honorary secretary.

He does the work of a secretary but is not paid for it. Please note the spelling: HONORARY. There is no 'u' in this. Well, this is enough for today. Goodbye."

"Thank you sir, Goodbye"

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

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भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA

LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA

The Corporation was established as 'Life Insurance Corporation of India' on September 1, 1956 under the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956. For details of change in the central office of the Corporation, see *"History and Certain Corporate Matters – Changes in central office of the Corporation"* on page 272 of the Red Herring Prospectus dated April 26, 2022 ("**RHP**").

Central office: Yogakshema, Jeevan Bima Marg, Nariman Point, Mumbai 400 021, Maharashtra, India.
Contact Person: Pawan Agrawal, Company Secretary and Compliance Officer; **Tel:** +91 22 2202 2079; **E-mail:** Investors@licindia.com; **Website:** www.licindia.in; **IRDAI Registration number:** 512

OUR PROMOTER: THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA, ACTING THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

INITIAL PUBLIC OFFER OF UP TO 221,374,920 EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 10 EACH ("EQUITY SHARES") OF LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA ("THE CORPORATION" OR THE "ISSUER") THROUGH AN OFFER FOR SALE OF UP TO 221,374,920 EQUITY SHARES BY THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA, ACTING THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ("SELLING SHAREHOLDER") FOR CASH AT A PRICE OF ₹ [●] PER EQUITY SHARE ("OFFER PRICE"), AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ [●] MILLION (THE "OFFER").
THE OFFER INCLUDES A RESERVATION OF UP TO 1,581,249 EQUITY SHARES AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ [●] MILLION (CONSTITUTING UP TO 0.025% OF THE POST-OFFER PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL), FOR SUBSCRIPTION BY ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEE(S) (THE "EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION") AND A RESERVATION OF UP TO 22,137,492 EQUITY SHARES AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ [●] MILLION (CONSTITUTING UP TO 0.35% OF THE POST-OFFER PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL) FOR SUBSCRIPTION BY ELIGIBLE POLICYHOLDER(S) ("POLICYHOLDER RESERVATION PORTION"). THE CORPORATION AND THE SELLING SHAREHOLDER, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BOOK RUNNING LEAD MANAGERS ("BRLMS"), SHALL OFFER (I) A DISCOUNT OF UP TO [●]% OF THE OFFER PRICE (EQUIVALENT OF ₹ 45 PER EQUITY SHARE) TO THE RETAIL INDIVIDUAL BIDDERS BIDDING IN THE RETAIL PORTION ("RETAIL DISCOUNT"), (II) A DISCOUNT OF UP TO [●]% OF THE OFFER PRICE (EQUIVALENT OF ₹ 45 PER EQUITY SHARE) TO ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEE(S) BIDDING IN THE EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION ("EMPLOYEE DISCOUNT"), AND (III) A DISCOUNT OF UP TO [●]% OF THE OFFER PRICE (EQUIVALENT OF ₹ 60 PER EQUITY SHARE) TO THE ELIGIBLE POLICYHOLDER(S) BIDDING IN THE POLICYHOLDER RESERVATION PORTION ("POLICYHOLDER DISCOUNT"). THE OFFER LESS THE EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION AND POLICYHOLDER RESERVATION PORTION IS HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS "NET OFFER". THE OFFER AND NET OFFER SHALL CONSTITUTE 3.5% AND 3.13%, RESPECTIVELY, OF THE POST-OFFER PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL OF THE CORPORATION.

QIB Portion: Not more than 50% of the Net Offer | Retail Portion: Not less than 35% of the Net Offer | Non-Institutional Portion: Not less than 15% of the Net Offer

PRICE BAND: ₹ 902 TO ₹ 949 PER EQUITY SHARE OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 10 EACH
A DISCOUNT OF ₹ 45 PER EQUITY SHARE IS BEING OFFERED TO RETAIL INDIVIDUAL BIDDERS BIDDING IN THE RETAIL PORTION AND ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES BIDDING IN THE EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION.
A DISCOUNT OF ₹ 60 PER EQUITY SHARE IS BEING OFFERED TO ELIGIBLE POLICYHOLDERS BIDDING IN THE POLICYHOLDER RESERVATION PORTION.
THE FLOOR PRICE IS 90.2 TIMES THE FACE VALUE OF THE EQUITY SHARES AND THE CAP PRICE IS 94.9 TIMES THE FACE VALUE OF THE EQUITY SHARES
BIDS CAN BE MADE FOR A MINIMUM OF 15 EQUITY SHARES AND IN MULTIPLES OF 15 EQUITY SHARES THEREAFTER

Risks to Investors:

- For Fiscal 2019, Fiscal 2020, Fiscal 2021 and the nine months ended December 31, 2021, the Corporation had a market share of 66.4%, 66.2%, 64.1% and 61.6%, respectively, in terms of total premium in the Indian life insurance sector.
- The entire Net Proceeds will be paid to the President of India and the Corporation will not receive any proceeds of the Offer.
- Our individual agents procure most of our individual new business premiums. If we are unable to retain and recruit individual agents on a timely basis and at reasonable cost, there could be a material adverse effect on our results of operations.
- The Corporation is not a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013 and is established and governed as per the provisions of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956 and the rules and regulations framed thereunder. Accordingly, the Corporation is not subject to the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013.
- The Market capitalization / Embedded Value ratio based on Embedded Value as at September 30, 2021 for the Corporation at the upper end of the Price Band is 1.11, compared to the average industry peer group Market capitalization / Embedded Value of 3.41 (simple average basis). Potential investors may note that the Embedded Value of the Corporation could be sensitive to the equity markets given the size of the equity investment portfolio of the Corporation.
- Average Cost of acquisition of Equity Shares for the Selling Shareholder is ₹ 0.16 each and Offer Price at upper end of the Price Band is ₹ 949.
- Details of Acquisition of all Equity Shares transacted in last three years and one year:

Period	Weighted Average Cost of Acquisition (in ₹)	Upper end of the Price Band (₹ 949) is 'X' times the Weighted Average Cost of Acquisition	Range of Acquisition Price: Lowest Price-Highest Price (in ₹)
Last 1 year	0.16	5,931	Nil*-10.00**
Last 3 years	0.16	5,931	Nil*-10.00**

**Represents acquisition price of equity shares pursuant to bonus issue. **The paid-up equity capital of the Corporation was ₹1,000 million (provided held by the GoI) prior to amendment to the Life Insurance Corporation Act by the Finance Act, 2021 ("Amendment"). Pursuant to the Amendment, the Corporation was required, with the previous approval of the GoI, to issue Equity Shares to the GoI in consideration for the paid-up equity capital provided by the GoI as it stood before the coming into force of Section 131 of the Finance Act, 2021.*

- Weighted Average Return on Net Worth for Fiscals 2021, 2020 and 2019 is 182.25%.
- The Ten Book Running Lead Managers associated with the Offer have handled 70 public issues in the past 3 years out of which 23 issues closed below the issue price on listing date.

BID/OFFER PROGRAMME*

BID/OFFER OPENS TODAY

BID/OFFER CLOSES ON MONDAY, MAY 9, 2022 (THE BID/ OFFER PERIOD SHALL ALSO INCLUDE BIDDING ON SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2022)

**On account of Bid / Offer Closing Date i.e. Monday, May 9, 2022, being a public holiday in the state of West Bengal, potential Bidders located or residing in West Bengal are requested to ensure that they take necessary steps for completion of the Bidding process (including submission of Application Form or Revision Form, as the case may be, in the manner indicated in the RHP) prior to Monday, May 9, 2022.*

In case of any revision in the Price Band, the Bid/Offer Period will be extended by at least three additional Working Days after such revision in the Price Band, subject to the Bid/Offer Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. In cases of force majeure, banking strike or similar circumstances, the Corporation may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, extend the Bid/Offer Period for a minimum of three Working Days, subject to the Bid/Offer Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. Any revision in the Price Band and the revised Bid/Offer Period, if applicable, shall be widely disseminated by notification to the Stock Exchanges, by issuing a public notice, and also by indicating the change on the respective websites of the BRLMs and at the terminals of the Syndicate Members and by intimation to Designated Intermediaries and the Sponsor Banks, as applicable.

The Offer is being made through the Book Building Process, in terms of Rule 19(2)(b) of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957, as amended ("**SCRR**") read with Regulation 31 of the SEBI ICDR Regulations and in compliance with Regulation 6(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations, wherein not more than 50% of the Net Offer shall be allocated on a proportionate basis to Qualified Institutional Buyers ("**QIBs**", the "**QIB Portion**"). The Corporation has in consultation with the BRLMs, allocated up to 60% of the QIB Portion to Anchor Investors on a discretionary basis in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations ("**Anchor Investor Portion**"), of which one-third was reserved for domestic Mutual Funds, subject to valid Bids having been received from domestic Mutual Funds at or above the Anchor Investor Allocation Price. Further, 5% of the Net QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis only to Mutual Funds, and the remainder of the Net QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to all QIBs, including Mutual Funds, subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Offer Price. Further, not less than 15% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Non-Institutional Bidders and not less than 35% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation to RIBs in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations, subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Offer Price. All potential Bidders (except Anchor Investors) are required to mandatorily utilise the Application Supported by Blocked Amount ("**ASBA**") process providing details of their respective ASBA accounts, and UPI ID in case of UPI Bidders Bidding using the UPI Mechanism, if applicable, in which the corresponding Bid Amounts will be blocked by the SCSBs or under the UPI Mechanism, as the case may be, to the extent of respective Bid Amounts. Anchor Investors are not permitted to participate in the Offer through the ASBA process. For details, see *"Offer Procedure"* beginning on page 569 of the RHP.

Bidders/Applicants should ensure that DP ID, PAN and the Client ID and UPI ID (for UPI Bidders bidding through UPI mechanism) are correctly filled in the Bid cum Application Form. The DP ID, PAN and Client ID provided in the Bid cum Application Form should match with the DP ID, PAN, Client ID available in the Depository database, otherwise, the Bid cum Application Form is liable to be rejected. Bidders/Applicants should ensure that the beneficiary account provided in the Bid cum Application Form is active. Bidders/Applicants should note that on the basis of the PAN, DP ID and Client ID as provided in the Bid cum Application Form, the Bidder/Applicant may be deemed to have authorized the Depositories to provide to the Registrar to the Offer, any requested Demographic Details of the Bidder/Applicant as available on the records of the depositories. These Demographic Details may be used, among other things, for giving Allotment Advice or unblocking of ASBA Account or for other correspondence(s) related to the Offer. Bidders/Applicants are advised to update any changes to their Demographic Details as available in the records of the Depository Participant to ensure accuracy of records. Any delay resulting from failure to update the Demographic Details would be at the Bidders/Applicants' sole risk.

Investors must ensure that their PAN is linked with Aadhaar and are in compliance with Central Board of Direct Taxes notification dated February 13, 2020 and press release dated June 25, 2021.

CONTENTS OF THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION OF THE CORPORATION AS REGARDS ITS OBJECTS: The Corporation, being established under the Life Insurance Corporation Act, does not have a memorandum of association or articles of association. The Corporation is governed under the provisions of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, the rules issued thereunder, and the Insurance Act and the regulations and guidelines issued by the IRDAI, each only to the extent applicable and not inconsistent with the provisions of the Life Insurance Corporation Act.

LIABILITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION: Limited by shares.

AMOUNT OF SHARE CAPITAL OF THE CORPORATION AND CAPITAL STRUCTURE: As on the date of the RHP, the authorised share capital of the Corporation is ₹ 250,000,000,000 divided into 25,000,000,000 equity shares of ₹ 10 each. The issued, subscribed and paid-up Equity share capital of the Corporation is ₹ 63,249,977,010 divided into 6,324,997,701 equity shares of ₹ 10 each. For details of the capital structure, see *"Capital Structure"* beginning on page 92 of the RHP.

NAMES OF THE INITIAL SIGNATORIES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION OF THE CORPORATION AND THE NUMBER OF EQUITY SHARES SUBSCRIBED BY THEM: The Corporation, being established under the Life Insurance Corporation Act, does not have a memorandum of association or articles of association. For details of the share capital history and capital structure of the Corporation see *"Capital Structure"* beginning on page 92 of the RHP.

LISTING: The Equity Shares offered through the RHP are proposed to be listed on the Stock Exchanges. The Corporation has received 'in-principle' approvals from BSE and NSE for the listing of the Equity Shares pursuant to letters each dated February 14, 2022. For the purposes of the Offer, the Designated Stock Exchange shall be BSE. For details of the material contracts and documents available for inspection from the date of the RHP up to the Bid/ Offer Closing Date, see *"Material Contracts and Documents for Inspection"* on page 641 of the RHP.

DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF SEBI: SEBI only gives its observations on the offer documents and this does not constitute approval of either the Offer or the specified securities stated in the offer document. The investors are advised to refer to page 534 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of SEBI.

DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF BSE (The Designated Stock Exchange): It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by BSE Limited should not in any way be deemed or construed that the RHP has been cleared or approved by BSE Limited nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the RHP. The investors are advised to refer to the page 536 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of BSE.

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DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF IRDAI: The IRDAI does not undertake any responsibility for the financial soundness of the Corporation or for the correctness of any of the statements made or opinions expressed in this connection. Any issuance of observation by the IRDAI under the LIC General Regulations shall not in any manner be deemed to be or serve as a validation of the representations by the Corporation in the offer document.

GENERAL RISKS: Investments in equity and equity-related securities involve a degree of risk and investors should not invest any funds in the Offer unless they can afford to take the risk of losing their entire investment. Investors are advised to read the risk factors carefully before taking an investment decision in the Offer. For taking an investment decision, investors must rely on their own examination of the Corporation and the Offer, including the risks involved. The Equity Shares in the Offer have not been recommended or approved by the SEBI, nor does SEBI guarantee the accuracy or adequacy of the contents of the RHP. Specific attention of the investors is invited to *"Risk Factors"* beginning on page 24 of the RHP.

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***Applications Supported by Blocked Amount ("ASBA") is a better way of applying to offers by simply blocking the fund in the bank account. For further details, check section on ASBA below.**
Mandatory in public issues. No cheque will be accepted.

UPI UNIFIED PAYMENTS INTERFACE

UPI-Now available in ASBA for UPI Bidders.**
Investors are required to ensure that the bank account used for bidding is linked to their PAN. UPI – Now available in ASBA for UPI Bidders applying through Registered Brokers, DPs & RTAs.
Retail Individual Bidders also have the option to submit the application directly to the ASBA Bank (SCSBs) or to use the facility of linked online trading, demat and bank account.

**ASBA has to be availed by all the investors except Anchor Investors (as defined in the RHP). UPI may be availed by RIBs, Eligible Employees bidding in the Employee Reservation Portion, where made available by the broker through whom the Bidder is submitting the Bid, Eligible Policyholders bidding in the Policyholder Reservation Portion, where made available by the broker through whom the Bidder is submitting the Bid and Non-Institutional Bidders with an application size of up to ₹ 500,000 in the Non-Institutional Portion. Bidders who are Eligible Employees or Eligible Policyholders, as the case may be, are advised to confirm the same with his/her broker regarding availability of UPI mechanism prior to submission of Bids.*
*For details on the ASBA and UPI process, please refer to the details given in ASBA Form and abridged prospectus and also please refer to the section "Offer Procedure" beginning on page 569 of the RHP. The process is also available on the website of Association of Investment Bankers of India ("**AIBI**"), the websites of BSE Limited ("**BSE**") and National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("**NSE**", and together with BSE, the "**Stock Exchanges**") and in the General Information Document. ASBA bid-cum application forms can be downloaded from the websites of Stock Exchanges and can be obtained from the list of banks that is displayed on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in.*
***List of banks supporting UPI is also available on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in. For the list of UPI Apps and Banks live on IPO, please refer to the link: www.sebi.gov.in. UPI Bidders Bidding using the UPI Mechanism may apply through the SCSBs and mobile applications whose names appear on the website of SEBI (https://www.sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?doRecognisedFpi=yes&intmId=34) and (https://sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?doRecognisedFpi=yes&intmId=40) respectively, as updated from time to time. Axis Bank Limited, HDFC Bank Limited and Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited have been appointed as Sponsor Bank for the Offer. For Offer related grievance or UPI related queries, investors may contact the BRLMs and Registrar to the Offer on their respective email IDs as mentioned below. For UPI related queries, investors can contact NPCI at the toll free number: 1800120740 and E-mail Id: ipo.upi@npci.org.in; Axis Bank Limited at Tel: +91 91670 06951/ 52, +91 022 6817 6300 and E-mail: churchgate.branchhead@axisbank.com, churchgate.operationshead@axisbank.com; HDFC Bank Limited at Tel: +91 022 3075 2927/ 28/ 2914 and E-mail: Siddharth.Jadhav@hdfcbank.com, prasanna.uchil@hdfcbank.com, neerav.desai@hdfcbank.com; Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited at Tel: +91 022 6605 6588/ 6713 2416 and E-mail: cmspo@kotak.com and the Registrar to the Offer at Tel: +91 40 6716 2222 and E-mail: lic.ipo@kfintech.com.*

For any Offer related queries, investors may write on E-mail: lic.ipo@kfintech.com or call on Toll-free number: 1800 3094 001 or Whatsapp by typing 'Hi' to: +91 91000 94099.

BOOK RUNNING LEAD MANAGERS

Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited
1st Floor, 27 BKC, Plot No. C-27, 'G' Block
Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East)
Mumbai 400 051 Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 4336 0000
E-mail: lic.ipo@kotak.com
Website: https://investmentbank.kotak.com
Investor Grievance ID: kmccredressal@kotak.com
Contact Person: Ganesh Rane
SEBI Registration Number: INM000008704

Axis Capital Limited
1st Floor, Axis House, C-2 Wadia
International Centre, P.B. Marg, Worli
Mumbai 400 025 Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 4325 2183/84
E-mail: lic.ipo@axiscap.in
Website: www.axiscapital.co.in
Investor Grievance ID: complaints@axiscap.in
Contact Person: Mayuri Arya
SEBI Registration Number: INM000012029

BofA Securities India Limited
Ground Floor, "A" Wing, One BKC, "G" Block
Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East),
Mumbai 400 051 Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 6632 8000/ 8411
E-mail: dg.lici_ipo@bofa.com
Website: www.ml-india.com
Investor Grievance ID: dg.india_merchantbanking@bofa.com
Contact Person: Abhay Agarwal
SEBI Registration Number: INM000011625

Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited
1202, 12th Floor, First International Finance Centre,
G-Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East)
Mumbai 400 098, Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 6175 9999; **E-mail:** licindia.ipo@citi.com
Investor Grievance ID: investors.cgmib@citi.com
Website: www.online.citibank.co.in/rhtm/citigroupglobalscreen1.htm
Contact Person: Huzefa Bodakhawala
SEBI Registration Number: INM000010718

Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Private Limited
951-A, Rational House
Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Prabhadevi
Mumbai 400 025, Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 6616 9000
E-mail: licipo@gs.com
Website: www.goldmansachs.com
Investor Grievance ID: india-client-support@gs.com
Contact Person: Chirag Jasani
SEBI Registration Number: INM000011054

ICICI Securities Limited
ICICI Venture House
Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Prabhadevi
Mumbai 400 025, Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 6807 7100
E-mail: lic.ipo@icicisecurities.com
Website: www.icicisecurities.com
Investor Grievance ID: customercare@icicisecurities.com
Contact Person: Samser Purohit/ Sumit Singh
SEBI Registration Number: INM000011179

JM Financial Limited
7th Floor, Cnergy, Appasaheb Marathe Marg
Prabhadevi, Mumbai 400 025 Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 6630 3030/ 3262
E-mail: lic.ipo@jmfl.com
Website: www.jmfl.com
Investor Grievance ID: grievance.ibd@jmfl.com
Contact Person: Prachee Dhuri
SEBI Registration Number: INM000010361

J.P. Morgan India Private Limited
J.P. Morgan Tower, Off. C.S.T. Road
Kalina, Santacruz (East), Mumbai 400 098 Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 6157 3000
E-mail: LIC_IPO@jpmorgan.com
Website: www.jpmipl.com
Investor Grievance ID: investorsmb.jpmipl@jpmorgan.com
Contact Person: Saarthak K Soni
SEBI Registration Number: INM000002970

Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities (India) Private Limited
Ceejay House, Level 11 Plot F, Shivsagar Estate,
Dr. Annie Besant Road, Worli, Mumbai 400 018 Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 4037 4037
E-mail: licipo@nomura.com
Website: www.nomuraholdings.com/company/group/asia/india/index.html
Investor Grievance ID: investorgrievances-in@nomura.com
Contact Person: Vishal Kanjani/Sandeep Baid
SEBI Registration Number: INM000011419

SBI Capital Markets Limited
202, Maker Tower "E", Cuffe Parade
Mumbai 400 005 Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 2217 8300
E-mail: lic.ipo@sbicaps.com
Website: www.sbicaps.com
Investor Grievance ID: investor.relations@sbicaps.com
Contact Person: Sambit Rath/Mounika T
SEBI Registration Number: INM000003531

REGISTRAR TO THE OFFER

KFin Technologies Limited
Selenium, Tower B, Plot No- 31 and 32
Gachibowli, Financial District, Nanakramguda,
Serilingampally, Hyderabad 500 032 Telangana, India
Tel: +91 40 6716 2222; **E-mail:** lic.ipo@kfintech.com
Investor Grievance ID: einward.ris@kfintech.com
Website: www.kfintech.com
Contact Person: M Murli Krishna
SEBI Registration Number: INR000000221

COMPANY SECRETARY AND COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Pawan Agrawal
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA
Yogakshema, Jeevan Bima Marg
Nariman Point, Mumbai 400 021 Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 2202 2079; **E-mail:** Investors@licindia.com
Website: www.licindia.in

Investors can contact the Company Secretary and Compliance Officer, the BRLMs or the Registrar to the Offer in case of any pre-Offer or post-Offer related problems, such as non-receipt of letters of Allotment, non-credit of Allotted Equity Shares in the respective beneficiary account, non-receipt of refund orders or non-receipt of funds by electronic mode.

AVAILABILITY OF RHP: Investors are advised to refer to the RHP and the *"Risk Factors"* beginning on page 24 of the RHP before applying in the Offer. A copy of the RHP will be made available on the website of the SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in, the websites of the BRLMs, Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited at https://investmentbank.kotak.com, Axis Capital Limited at www.axiscapital.co.in, BofA Securities India Limited at www.ml-india.com, Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited at www.online.citibank.co.in/rhtm/citigroupglobalscreen1.htm, Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Private Limited at www.goldmansachs.com, ICICI Securities Limited at www.icicisecurities.com, JM Financial Limited at www.jmfl.com, J.P. Morgan India Private Limited at www.jpmipl.com, Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities (India) Private Limited at www.nomuraholdings.com/company/group/asia/india/index.html and SBI Capital Markets Limited at www.sbicaps.com and the websites of the Stock Exchanges, for BSE at www.bseindia.com and for NSE at www.nseindia.com.

AVAILABILITY OF BID CUM APPLICATION FORM: Bid cum Application Form can be obtained from the Central Office of the Corporation, **LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA:** Tel: +91 22 2202 2079; **BRLMs: Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited**, Tel: +91 22 4336 0000; **Axis Capital Limited**, Tel: +91 22 4325 2183; **BofA Securities India Limited**, Tel: +91 22 6632 8000; **Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited**, Tel: +91 22 6175 9999; **Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Private Limited**, Tel: +91 22 6616 9000; **ICICI Securities Limited**, Tel: +91 22 6807 7100; **JM Financial Limited**, Tel: +91 22 6630 3030/ 3262; **J.P. Morgan India Private Limited**, Tel: +91 22 6157 3000; **Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities (India) Private Limited**, Tel: +91 22 4037 4037 and **SBI Capital Markets Limited**, Tel: +91 22 2217 8300; **Syndicate Members: Investec Capital Services (India) Private Limited,** Tel: +91 22 6849 7400; **JM Financial Services Limited,** Tel: +91 22 6136 3400; **Kotak Securities Limited,** Tel: +91 22 6218 5470 and **SBICAP Securities Limited,** Tel: +91 22 4227 3300 /69316100 and at selected locations of Sub-Syndicate Members (as given below), Registered Brokers, SCSBs, Designated RTA Locations and Designated CDP Locations for participating in the Offer. Bid cum Application Forms will also be available on the websites of the Stock Exchanges at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com and at all the Designated Branches of SCSBs, the list of which is available on the websites of the Stock Exchanges and SEBI.

SUB-SYNDICATE MEMBERS: Achiievers Equities Limited; Ajcon Global Services Limited; Alankit Assignments Limited; Almondz Global Securities Limited; Amrapali Capital & Finance Services Ltd.; Anand Rathi Share & Stock Brokers Limited; Anand Share Consultancy; ANS Pvt Limited; Ashwani Dandia & Co; Axis Securities Limited; Centrum Broking Limited; Centrum Wealth Management Ltd.; Choice Equity Broking Private Limited; Dalal & Broacha Stock Broking Private Limited; DB(International) Stock Brokers Ltd.; Dhani Stocks Limited; Edelweiss Broking Limited; Eureka Stock & Share Broking Services Limited; G Raj & Co. (Consultants) Limited; Globe Capital Market Limited; ICICI Securities Limited; IDBI Capital Markets and Securities Limited; IIFL Securities Ltd.; Innovate Securities Pvt Limited; Jhaveri Securities; Jobanputra Fiscal Services Private Limited; Kalpataru Multiplier Limited; Kantilal Chhaganlal Sec Pvt Ltd.; Keynote Capitals Limited; KJMC Capital Market Services Limited; Lakshmishree Investment & Securities Pvt Limited; LKP Securities Limited; Inventure Growth & Securities Ltd.; Marwadi Shares & Finance; Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited; Motilal Oswal Securities Limited; Nirmal Bang Securities Pvt. Ltd.; Ohm Securities; Patel Wealth Advisors Pvt Limited; Prabhudas Lilladher Pvt Limited; Pravin Ratilal Share and Stock Brokers Ltd.; RR Equity Brokers Private Limited; Safal Capital (India) Limited; Sharekhan Limited; SMC Global Securities Limited; Systematix Shares and Stocks (India) Limited; Tanna Financial Services; Trade Bulls Securities (P) Ltd.; Trust Financial Consultancy Services Pvt Limited; Viren M Shah; Way2Wealth Brokers Private Limited and Yes Securities (India) Limited.

ESCROW COLLECTION BANK/ REFUND BANK / PUBLIC ISSUE BANK/ SPONSOR BANKS: Axis Bank Limited, HDFC Bank Limited and Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited. | **UPI:** UPI Bidders can also Bid through UPI mechanism.

All capitalised terms used herein and not specifically defined shall have the same meaning as ascribed to them in the RHP.

For **LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA**
On behalf of the Board of Directors
Sd/-
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

Place: Mumbai
Date: May 3, 2022

LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA is proposing, subject to receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to make an initial public issue of its Equity Shares and has filed the RHP with the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("**SEBI**") and the Stock Exchanges. The RHP shall be available on the website of the SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in as well as on the websites of the book running lead managers, Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited at https://investmentbank.kotak.com, Axis Capital Limited at www.axiscapital.co.in, BofA Securities India Limited at www.ml-india.com, Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited at www.online.citibank.co.in/rhtm/citigroupglobalscreen1.htm, Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Private Limited at www.goldmansachs.com, ICICI Securities Limited at www.icicisecurities.com, JM Financial Limited at www.jmfl.com, J.P. Morgan India Private Limited at www.jpmipl.com, Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities (India) Private Limited at www.nomuraholdings.com/company/group/asia/india/index.html and SBI Capital Markets Limited at www.sbicaps.com, the website of the National Stock Exchange of India Limited at www.nseindia.com and the website of the BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com. Any potential investor should note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to such risks, see *"Risk Factors"* on page 24 of the RHP. Potential investors should not rely on the draft red herring prospectus for any investment decision.

This announcement does not constitute an offer of securities for sale in any jurisdiction, including the United States, and any securities described in this announcement may not be offered or sold in the United States absent registration under the U.S. Securities Act or an exemption from such registration. Any public offering of securities to be made in the United States will be made by means of a prospectus that may be obtained from the Corporation or the Selling Shareholder and that will contain detailed information about the Corporation and management, as well as financial statements. However, no public offering of securities in the United States is contemplated.

CONCEPT

Curtains

Actor Sudeep (above), yoga wonder girl Kushi (extreme left), and various artists performing at the closing ceremony of Khelo India University Games at Sree Kanteerava Indoor Stadium on Tuesday. • K. MURALI KUMAR

Tomato price goes through the roof

From ₹10 a kg three months ago, it has gone up to ₹70 now

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Adding the tangy taste of tomatoes to meals is turning out to be a costly affair. Over the past week, the price of tomatoes has seen a substantial increase. Currently, the price in the wholesale market is between ₹45 and ₹50 per kg, while in retail, it is being sold at ₹60 to ₹70 per kg.

There is no immediate relief in sight either. With a huge demand and a shortage of supply, the price of the kitchen staple is set to increase further, say those in the horticulture sector.

According to Umesh Mirji, Managing Director of Horticultural Producers' Cooperative Marketing and Processing Society (HOPCOMS), the root cause of the price rise is the shortage in supply. That apart, owing to the marriage season and with several functions being held, the demand is also high. "Usually after Shivaratri, the price of tomatoes first drops and then increases gradually," he said.

Concurring, a procurement chief of a prominent grocery chain in the city said that around three months ago, the price of tomato had dropped to ₹10 per kg. On some days, it was as low as ₹6 per kg. "Anticipating losses, many farmers did not maintain the crop. This has had a huge impact on the supply," he explained.

Mr. Mirji said that the supply of tomatoes from Maharashtra had also dropped. The production of tomatoes in the neighbouring State had come down owing to high temperatures. The procurement chief added that around 20 truckloads would come from Nasik and Lathore belt in Maharashtra.

"Now, only around five truckloads are coming in," he said, and added that given the huge shortage in the supply and the increasing demand, the price of tomatoes will surely increase further.

With the onset of summer, the price of lemons has also increased. This was attributed to an increase in consumption.

Apart from tomatoes, the prices of beans and cauliflowers are also seeing an increase. This increase is also being attributed to the increase in demand due to the ongoing festival season.

While the wholesale rate of beans is around ₹45 to ₹50 per kg, it is being sold at ₹70 per kg in retail markets. Around 15-20 days ago, the price of cauliflower was in the range of ₹ 10 to ₹ 12 per kg. Currently, the wholesale rate of the cruciferous vegetable has increased to ₹25 to ₹30 per kg. "If the supply situation improves, the prices will stabilise," Mr. Mirji said.

People are obviously feeling the pinch. "Tomatoes and other vegetables are staples. Such high prices will burn a huge hole in our pockets as we cannot skip buying them. With the price rise in other commodities, this is really taxing on the common man," said Radhika, a resident of Yelahanka.

With a huge demand and a shortage of supply, the price of the kitchen staple is set to increase further. • FILE PHOTO

Tomatoes and other vegetables are staples. Such high prices will burn a huge hole in our pockets as we cannot skip buying them. With the price rise in other commodities, this is really taxing on the common man

RADHIKA,
Resident of Yelahanka

Swiggy to use drones to replenish grocery stocks

Firm gets 345 responses to request for proposal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Bengaluru-based food delivery platform Swiggy will deploy drones on a pilot basis to execute deliveries for its grocery service Instamart.

According to a blog post by Swiggy, the company received 345 registrations in response to a request for proposal (RFP) for Drones-as-a-Service.

After an extensive evaluation process covering legal, financial, and technical aspects, the company has finalised four firms for conducting the trials.

The pilot project would be executed in two tranches. The first tranche would involve Garuda Aerospace for Bengaluru and Skyeair Mobility for Delhi-NCR. The second tranche would involve ANRA and TechEagle Consortia and Marut Dronetech.

According to the blog post, Swiggy 'finalised four vendors in two tranches who have a mix of capabilities in drone hardware, potential to scale up, investment in innovation, research and development, and the overall ability to deliver the service'.

The pilot project is meant to evaluate the feasibility of drones for the middle-mile use case, particularly for Swiggy's grocery delivery service Instamart.

Drones would be used to replenish stocks between seller-run dark stores and from a store to a common customer point. A delivery partner would then pick up orders from the common point and deliver them to the customer's doorstep.

The pilot of tranche 1 would commence in Bengaluru with Garuda Aerospace and in Delhi-NCR with Skyeair Mobility in the first week of May. Based on the progress, expansion would take place in the region and beyond.

The company plans to use the findings from these pilot projects as a stepping stone in unearthing possibilities for drone-assisted deliveries in the e-commerce space.

Man found dead; nine arrested for murder

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

A 33-year-old scrap dealer, who was found dead in Chandra Layout and initially thought to have died of natural causes, was in fact murdered, investigation has revealed. The police have now arrested nine men for the crime.

Zohib Abrar left home on Sunday night to buy milk and didn't return, but was found dead on a street nearby the next morning.

The police have now arrested Nadeem, a garments shopkeeper, and eight others. "Mr. Abrar's wife and Nadeem are childhood friends. Mr. Abrar suspected the duo were having an affair and had a bitter tiff with Nadeem. Nadeem and his friends kidnapped Mr. Abrar on Sunday, tied him up and plastered his mouth, beat him up, and drove him around all night. However, the plaster had also covered his nose and he seems to have died of suffocation. They threw the body and fled," a police official said.

IIPMB fest held

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The Indian Institute of Plantation Management, Bengaluru (IIPMB), organised a two-day business and cultural fest, Tempora 2022, from April 29.

According to a release from IIPM, the fest was organised in a hybrid mode enabling online participation and several competitions such as best managers, B-plan competition, online trading, and cultural show.

The two-day festival showcased managerial aspiration of participants from all over 363 institutions and universities in India and abroad, the release said.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I JC-820474K Sub Achchhe lal yadav of CMP Resident of Vill Bind PO Mujahi bazar patti Pratapgarh (UP), want to change my daughter name to KM RAMBHA YADAV from KUMARI RAMBHA and my Son name to UJJAWAL YADAV from UJJAWAL KUMAR YADAV in my Service records vide affidavit no IN-KA05548485666258U

I C. Manian resident of 3/414 A 114 9th Street Nandhi Nagar Pidemaneri Dharmapuri, Dharmapuri District 636701 have changed my daughter's name from ABINAYA to ABINAYA. M. vide affidavit dated 15-03-2022 before notary Dharmapuri.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

I, ALBERT Raju, R/a No.406, SVS School Road, Yarabanagar, BSK 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560070 hereby state that I am the husband of Allis Kumari, expired on 27.01.2021. My wife's name has been mentioned as Allis Kumari and Kumari S.R in different documents. I hereby state that both the names belongs to one and the same person only, vide affidavit dt: 19.02.2022 sworn before Notary D.K.Rameshappa, B'lore

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, **Sri. S.K.Sathish S/O Late- Krishnappa B. Sri. S.K.Manjunath S/O Late- Krishnappa B., Sri. S.K.Ravikumar S/O Late- Krishnappa B All are R/at Sampagere Village, Lakkur Hobli, Malura Taluk, Kolar District.**, are the absolute owners of the property described in the Schedule hereunder.

It is brought to the notice of the general public that, our client has negotiated and decided to purchase the Schedule Property from the above said owner. All persons having any claim against or to the Schedule Property or any part thereof by way of inheritance, mortgage, sale, conveyance, MOU, Agreement to Sell, G.P.A, transfer, lease deed, tenancy, license, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, exchange, possession, adverse possession or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to submit the same in writing along with documentary proof to the undersigned at their office **within 10 days from the date of publication hereof**, failing which our client shall proceed without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, will be considered as waived.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of the Agricultural land bearing **Sy. No. 131/3**, measuring to an extent of **2 Acres 22 Guntas**, situated at Sampangere Village, Lakkuru Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District and bounded on the: - **East by:** Land belongs to Muniraju; **West by:** Land belongs to Nandish; **North by:** Road, **South by:** Land belongs to Bharathi and Chikkaramaiah.

Dated this 04th day of May 2022 at Kolar

M/S. LEGAL NEXUS,
ADVOCATES & CONSULTANTS, No. 428, First Floor, 25th Cross, 24th Main, HSR Layout, Sector 2, Bangalore – 560102, Ph: 080-65666814, Mobile: 9945688974, 9164150690

Hg: 02.06.2022

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - 2
Jeevan Mangal Building
1st & 2nd Floor, No.4, Residency Road, Bengaluru-560 025, **O.A. No.398/2019**

BETWEEN

BANK OF BARODA (Dena Bank)
Branch at Devanahalli, SRC Complex, Budigere Road, Prashant Nagar, Devanahalli, Bengaluru Rural District – 562110 ...... **Applicant**
AND
Sri. S.V. Nanjegowda & Another .... **Defendants**

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEEDURE) RULES 1993 BY PAPER PUBLICATION

DEFENDANT NO. 1 & 2
1. Sri. S.V. Nanjegowda
S/o. Venkatappa,
Aged about 65 years,
Residing at Shanthinagr, Sulibele Road, Devanahalli Town,
Bengaluru Rural District – 562123.
Date of Birth: 15-04-1954
PAN: APTPN 1500Q
Mobile: 9901024701
2. Sri. Ravishankar
S/o. Shantharam
Aged about 42 years,
Residing at No.155-D, Bychapura, Devanahalli Taluk,
Bengaluru Rural District – 562110.
Date of Birth: 30-05-1977
PAN: BXHPS 8110E
Mobile: 9880340698

Whereas, the Applicant Has instituted an application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993, against the Defendants for recovery of sum of Rs.13,16,407/- (Rupees thirteen lakhs sixteen thousand four hundred and seven only) together with cost and other reliefs.

The above mentioned Defendants No.1 & 2 required to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly instructed in support of his defense to show cause on 02.06.2022 at 10.30 am (forenoon) as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand the seal of this tribunal on this 21st Day of March 2022.

BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL
Sd/-

REGISTRAR I/C
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-2
BANGALORE 560 025

Hg: 17.05.2022

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - 2
Jeevan Mangal Building
1st & 2nd Floor, No.4, Residency Road, Bengaluru-560 025, **O.A. No.980/2019**

BETWEEN

BANK OF BARODA (Dena Bank)
Branch at Devanahalli, SRC Complex, Budigere Road, Prashant Nagar, Devanahalli, Bengaluru Rural District – 562110 ...... **Applicant**
AND
Sri. Sukavantha & 2 Other .... **Defendants**

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEEDURE) RULES 1993 BY PAPER PUBLICATION

DEFENDANT NO. 3
SRI. Y. NARAYANASWAMI
S/o Erappa
Aged about 64 years
Residinga at No. 59,
Yarappanahalli, Devanahalli Taluk
Bengaluru Rural District - 562 110
Mobile No. 9141856077

Whereas, the Applicant Has instituted an application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993, against the Defendants for recovery of sum of **Rs. 10,34,535/-** (Rupees Ten Lakh thirty four thousand five hundred thirty five only) together with cost and other reliefs.

The above mentioned Defendant No.3 required to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly instructed in support of his defense to show cause on 17.05.2022 at 10.30 am (forenoon) as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand the seal of this tribunal on this 21st Day of March' 2022.

BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL
Sd/-

REGISTRAR I/C
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-2
BANGALORE 560 025

Hg: 02.06.2022

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - 2
Jeevan Mangal Building
1st & 2nd Floor, No.4, Residency Road, Bengaluru-560 025, **O.A. No.215/2020**

BETWEEN

BANK OF BARODA (Dena Bank)
Branch at Devanahalli, SRC Complex, Budigere Road, Prashant Nagar, Devanahalli, Bengaluru Rural District – 562110 ...... **Applicant**
AND
Sri. Chikkonnappa alias Chikkokonnappa & 3 Others .... **Defendants**

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEEDURE) RULES 1993 BY PAPER PUBLICATION

DEFENDANT NO. 4
Sri. Muniyappa
S/o. Kenchappa
Aged about 53 years,
Residing at Polenahalli Village
Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District

Whereas, the Applicant Has instituted an application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993, against the Defendants for recovery of sum of Rs.24,23,723/- (Rupees twenty four lakhs twenty three thousand seven hundred and twenty three only) together with cost and other reliefs.

The above mentioned Defendant No.4 required to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly instructed in support of his defense to show cause on 02.06.2022 at 10.30 am (forenoon) as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand the seal of this tribunal on this 21st Day of March 2022.

BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL
Sd/-

REGISTRAR I/C
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-2
BANGALORE 560 025

PUBLIC NOTICE

THIS is to notify the General Public that my client, **Mr. Kotian Uttam Sanjiva,** S/o Mr. Sanjiva Chennappa Kotian has lost the Registered Sale Deed Dtd 18-11-2010, Executed by **M/s. S.R.K. Gold Earth Construction Pvt. Ltd.,** Bangalore, in favour Mr. Kotian Uttam Sanjiva & Mrs. Kotian Archana and registered in the office of the Senior Sub-Registrar, Begur, Bengaluru Urban Dist vide document No. BGR-1-05658-2010-11, recorded in CD No. BGRD 65 on 18-01-2011, held by him with respect to Scheduled Property & the said document is not traceable, If found return to the under signed and will be rewarded

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

All that piece & parcel of 2 bedroom Flat bearing No. B-103, in 1st Floor of Apartment known as **"SRK SILICANA"** having super built up area of 1280 sq. ft. situated at **Doddathogur Village**, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru having e-katha **No. 150200301100177715** & bounded on **East by: Flat No. C-102, West by: Entrance Lobby, North by: Open Spaces and South by: Flat No. B-104**

Narji A. Sadananda, Advocate,
No. 41, 2nd Flr, 1st Mn Rd, Nagendra Blk, BSK 1st Stage, B'lore-50. **Ph.94805-14262**
Place: Bengaluru Date: 1-05-2022

Hg: 27.07.2022

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - 1
Jeevan Mangal Building
1st & 2nd Floor, No.4, Residency Road, Bengaluru-560 025,
O.A. No. 908/2020

BETWEEN

DENA BANK NOW BANK OF BARODA
A body corporate, constituted under the Banking Companies (Acquisition & Transfer) Act, 1970 Having its Head Office At Mondvi, Baroda in Gujarat State, And a Branch at Patrenahalli, Chikkaballapura Taluk & District
Represented by its Senior Manager
IFSC: BKDN0610294
PAN: AAACB1534F
Mobile: 9152940294
Mail ID: DBPATR@bankofbaroda.co.in ...**Applicant**

AND

Mr. Muniyappa .V & 3 Others ... **Defendants**

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEEDURE) RULES 1993 BY PAPER PUBLICATION

DEFENDANT No. 2
Mr. Ashok .M.V
S/o Mariyappa
Aged about 32 years
Residing at
Varadahalli, Jatavara post,
Chikkaballapura Taluk & District 562101

Whereas, the Applicant Has instituted an application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993, against the Defendants for recovery of sum of **Rs. 21,35,121.29** (Rupees Twenty one lakhs thirty five thousand one hundred and twenty one and paise twenty nine only) together with cost and other reliefs.

The above mentioned Defendant No.2 required to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly instructed in support of his defense to show cause on 27.07.2022 at 10.30 am (forenoon) as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand the seal of this tribunal on this 11th Day of April 2022.

BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL
Sd/-

REGISTRAR
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1
BANGALORE 560 025

Government of India
[Autonomous]
MSME TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE CHENNAI
CFTI, 65/1, G.S.T. Road, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032
3 Weekend Online Training Program on
Government Certified Professional Course on
Data Analytics with Python

Date: 14th, 15th, 21st, 22nd, 28th & 29th May 2022 Time: 2.00 p.m. to 6.00. p.m.

Contents : Basic Concept of Statistics, Introduction of Analytics, Data and Variable Definition, Concept of Supervised / Unsupervised, Concept of Descriptive Statistics, Mean / Median / Mode, Standard Deviation / Variance, Coefficient of Variation Covariance Analysis, Correlation Analysis Concept of Graphs & Chart, Histogram, Boxplot, Scatter Plot, Line, Bar Diagram, Pie Chart Concept of Statistical and Normal, Binomial, Poisson Distribution, Concept of Hypothesis Testing, Types of Statistical Testing, T-Test, Anova, Chi_square test, Regression Analysis, Multiple Linear Regression Analysis, Model Accuracy Checking, Logistic, Confusion Matrix, Overall Accuracy, Recall / Sensitivity Precision F Score Decision Tree, Result interpretation Ensemble Model, Bagging Technique, Random Forest, Example Gradient Boosting Algorithm GBM Example Unsupervised Techniques Principal Component Analysis, Concept of PCA, How its works in Real Data Set Cluster Analysis K-means Cluster.

Who Can Attend : IT Professionals, Data Engineers, Science Commerce, Mathematics Graduates, Faculty Members, Administrators, Job Seekers, Statistics Aspirants.

Trainner : Mr. Krishnendu Kundu, Data & Statistical Analyst

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GOVT OF INDIA CERTIFICATE WILL BE ISSUED TO SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is given that, our client is proposing to purchase Property-I, Property-II and Property -III, described in the Schedule and referred as the "Schedule Properties", from its respective owners.

Any person having any subsisting claim, right, title or interest, in respect of any of the Schedule Properties or any part thereof, in any manner including by way of easement, beneficial interest or pre-emption or under any agreement or other disposition or under any suit or award passed by any Court or Authority, arbitrator, lis-pendens, power of attorney, bequest, FSI, development rights, partnership, family arrangement or settlement or otherwise encumbrance howsoever ("**Claim**"), are hereby requested to respond with documentary proof to the undersigned within 12 (Twelve) days from the date of publication, failing which, it shall be presumed that no such Claim exists and if it existed, the claimant has relinquished such Claim and/or waived their right to exercise such Claim.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

Property-I	
Owners:	**(1) Mr K J Purushotham and (2) Mr K J Chandrashekar** both at No 327, First "A" Main Road, 8th Block Koramangala, Bengaluru-560 095 **(3) SJR Prime Corporation Private Limited** The HUB, # 8/2 & 9, Ambalipura Bellandur Sarjapur Main Road, Bengaluru-560103
Description:	Commercial Building called "SJR Equinox" in entirety, having built-up area of totally 16732.84 square meters comprising of 2 Basement, Ground and 4 Upper Floors with 224 car parks, bearing Property No 150200301100105028 and Doddathoguru Gram Panchayath Property No 2562/47/8/1, constructed on Survey No 47/8(portion), measuring 4954 square meters of Doddathoguru Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bengaluru, presently in Electronics City Phase 1, Bengaluru-560 100.
Boundaries	East By : Government Road West By: Property belonging to Mr Krishnareddy North By: Property belonging to Mr Kulume Maniyappa; and South By: Property belonging to Ms Ramakka and Ms Munilakshmamma
Property-II	
Owners:	**Mr J Vijay Reddy,** son of Mr S Jayarama Reddy, The HUB, # 8/2 & 9, Ambalipura Bellandur Sarjapur Main Road, Bengaluru-560 103.
Description:	Residential Apartment bearing No D-003(Doddathoguru Village Panchayath khatha No 7224/Summit-D-003, RDPR PID No 150200301100120624), having built-up area of 1387 square feet and 287 square feet of proportionate share in common areas aggregating to 1674 square feet, situated on the Ground Floor, Block -Summit of 'SJR Equinox'("**Apartment No D-003**"), constructed on land totally measuring 5 acres 8 guntas (less 4.34 guntas surrendered to BDA), in Survey Nos 47/8, 47/9, and 47/10 of Doddathoguru Village, Beguru Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk("**Apartment Land**")having UDS of 559.84 square feet in Apartment Land with one car parking slot in the ground level.
Boundaries	East By : Entrance and Lobby in Summit Block of SJR Equinox West By: Open towards open space in SJR Equinox North By: Flat No D-004 in Summit Block of SJR Equinox; and South By: Open towards open space in SJR Equinox
Property-III	
Owners:	**SJR Prime Corporation Private Limited** The HUB, # 8/2 & 9, Ambalipura Bellandur Sarjapur Main Road, Bengaluru- 560103
Description:	Residential Apartment bearing No S-105, having built-up area of 1387 square feet and 287 square feet of proportionate share in common areas aggregating to 1674 square feet, situated on the First Floor, Block-Summit of 'SJR Equinox'("**Apartment No S-105**"), and having UDS of 559.84 square feet in the Apartment Land alongwith one car parking slot.
Boundaries	East By : Flat No 106 West By: Open Space North By: Open Space; and South By: Flat Entry/Lobby

Dated this 03rd day of May 2022

Pavithra Thammaiah
Counsel
Khaitan & Co
Embassy Quest, 3rd Floor, 45/1, Magrath Road, Bengaluru-560 025
T: +91 80 43397000 / M: +91 9886226057

Jog Falls projects: 'Wildlife board nod, green clearance mandatory'

This is not just for the 5-star hotel for which forest diversion has been sought, but also for mega tourism infrastructure proposed on revenue land

R. KRISHNA KUMAR
MYSURU

The Forest Department has directed the Jog Management Authority to get environment and wildlife clearance from the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife for the proposed Tourism Development Project at Jog Falls in Shivamogga district.

The State Cabinet has already approved the construction of a 5-star hotel at a cost of nearly ₹120 crore apart from a ropeway, and these are in addition to other development works at a cost of around ₹185 crore under PPP model.

The environment clearance and wildlife board clearance are not just for the 5-star hotel for which forest diversion has been sought, but also for the mega tourism infrastructure proposed on revenue land, according to wildlife conservationist Giridhar Kulkarni who had filed objections to the project citing various provisions of the law.

The project entails construction of a 5-star hotel, ropeway, a huge entrance gate, a Sharavathi statue, science/children park, view deck, restaurant, rest rooms, peripheral road and intermittent road, footpath, administrative wing, vehicle parking facility, ticket counter, drinking water, first aid room, boating to Vadanbail temple and water sports at Talakalale, and lighting up or illumination of the falls.

Jog Falls in Shivamogga district. • FILE PHOTO

The Forest Department has stated that the area proposed for diversion is situated in the Western Ghats and is categorised as open forest eco class-I tropical wet evergreen forest, as per the forest conservation guidelines and is part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Besides, it is located about 2.7 km (aerial distance) from the boundary of Sharavathi Valley Lion Tailed Macaque sanctuary. Though an Eco Sensitive Zone has not been notified, an area of 10 km from the boundary is deemed to be ESZ as per a Supreme Court direction in case of wildlife sanctuaries for which ESZ is yet to be notified. Hence, any regulated activity within the ESZ needs environmental clearance from the Centre, according to the Forest Department, which submitted its response in February 2022, and the same was forwarded to the Centre in April.

It also stated that the remaining infrastructure and construction works - apart from the 5 star hotel - are proposed on 18.30 acres granted by the Revenue Department.

But the land is situated in the limits of the deemed ESZ of Sharavathi Valley Lion Tailed Macaque Sanctuary, and hence the Jog authorities should secure environmental clearance as per provisions of the law, as per the Forest Department's response to the objections raised by Giridhar Kulkarni.

While conceding the need for both environmental and wildlife clearance to the tourism infrastructure, the Forest Department has reiterated its approval for a 5-star hotel on the ground that it was proposed to be constructed by demolishing the existing PWD guest house and no additional diversion of forest land was required.

Giridhar Kulkarni said though the Forest Department has conceded that environment clearance and wildlife clearance are a must for tourism activities on non-forest land, it is more to comply with legal requirements.

The Forest Department's response to other objections reads as if it is more enthusiastic about the project than conservation. "By adopting suitable precautionary measures, damage to the environment and wildlife can be prevented successfully," according to the Forest Department's report.

Though the project is within the ESZ of the Lion Tailed Macaque Sanctuary, the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Sagar division, is dismissive of fears of human-animal conflict on the ground that 'wildlife movement is not frequent in this area' and expects the infrastructure projects to create jobs for the local people.

Mysuru-Hubballi flight to boost tourism, trade and commerce

It is expected to give a boost to tourism sector in North and South Karnataka

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

The flight between Hubballi and Mysuru inaugurated on Tuesday has brought the two important cities much closer and shored up connectivity between the north and southern parts of Karnataka.

Apart from giving an impetus to trade and commerce, it is also expected to give a boost to tourism sector in both the regions.

The Indigo flight from Hubballi being accorded a water canon salute on landing in Mysuru on Tuesday. • M.A. SRIRAM

The Indigo flight from Hubballi reached Mysuru at 6.05 p.m. and was accorded a water canon salute on landing and it left with about 21 passengers on board on the return flight at 6.25 p.m. The passenger traffic is expected to increase given the number of people who travel between the two regions on a daily basis.

The confidence for demand also stems from the fact that a private airline had launched flight services between Mysuru and Belagavi and it used to have high occupancy but the services were suspended consequent to issues with the airline.

For commuters, the flight duration between Mysuru and Hubballi being a little over an hour, is not only time saving but eliminates the tedious drudgery of traveling by road for nearly 12 hours.

Stakeholders representing the travel and tourism sector welcomed the new flight and said this augurs well for the city and improves connectivity not only to Hubballi but other areas of North and Central Karnataka region.

Jayakumar, president, Mysore Travels Association, said though there are trains and buses, the journey of almost 12 hours puts off a lot of tourists visiting Goa who also visit Badami, Pattadakal, Aihole and Hampi. Now, they can also tag Mysuru and move on to Kochi which is another important destination for which there is flight connection from Mysuru, he said. Besides, the under explored heritage site of Lakkundi is within reach of many domestic tourists from Mysuru and surrounding regions as well, say the stakeholders.

Tourism apart the connectivity is important for trade and commerce and here is dispersal of industries with lot of investors evincing interest in Mysuru, said T.L. Balachandran, who is into marketing of polymers and a frequent traveler. The service saves time and is convenient and holds potential for growth, said Amith Patil and Kusuma Patil from Belagavi who were among the 21 passengers on the inaugural flight. Mysuru Airport Director Manjunath said they are also exploring the possibility of reintroducing flights to Belagavi while there was demand for flights to Mangaluru, Tirupati and Shirdi.

Walkout strike

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

All-India Insurance Employees' Association has given a call to observe a two-hour walkout strike on Wednesday, from 11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m., opposing the initial public offering (IPO) of Life Insurance Corporation. Insurance Corporation Employees' Union said disinvestment leads to privatisation. Entry of private shareholders will shift focus from national development to profit maximisation.

Id celebration

Devotees offering a special prayer on the occasion of Id-ul-Fitr at Chamarajpet Idgah Maidan in Bengaluru on Tuesday • K. MURALI KUMAR

107 new cases reported

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Karnataka on Tuesday reported 107 new cases of COVID-19 and as many recoveries. As many as 100 cases out of the total were reported from Bengaluru Urban district alone. The positivity rate for the day in Karnataka stood at 1.5% and for the week at 1.33%

Karnataka tested as many as 7,114 people on Tuesday.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, MAY. 04	
RISE 05:58	SET 18:35
RISE 08:22	SET 21:40
THURSDAY, MAY. 05	
RISE 05:58	SET 18:35
RISE 09:12	SET 22:31
FRIDAY, MAY. 06	
RISE 05:57	SET 18:35
RISE 10:02	SET 23:21

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	24
Mysuru	35	21
Bengaluru	33	20

Bengaluru Today
33°C The weather will be warm and humid. Night will be comfortable. Spell of rain and thundershower is likely.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
32°C A warm and humid weather to prevail.Night also will be comfortable. One or two spells of rain and thundershower will occur.

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- CAT/GATE/GMAT/GRE/JAM test score obtained anytime in the last three years, OR
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Application window opens – May 4, 2022
Application window closes - June 10, 2022

Batch will commence from August 2022

Detailed information is available on the website: https://msdsm.iiti.ac.in
Contact- 0731-2439736/ 666 or 0731- 6603333- 3577/3598
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THE HINDU
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Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RN No. KAREMG/2020/49945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X • Vol. 53 • No. 105

Centre will develop database to monitor terror funding: Shah

'Data, technology, and automation key to face today's security challenges'

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Union Home Minister Amit Shah stressed the need for deployment of technology, data, and automation to face security requirements today, which he said have changed in terms of scope and complexity. He launched the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) campus in Bengaluru, Forensic Science Laboratory in Ballari, and Smart e-Beat app for the State police in the city on Tuesday.

Mr. Shah said the Union Government will soon develop a national database to monitor terror funding, counterfeit currency, narcotics, bomb threats, illegal arms trade, hawala transactions, and other terror activities. This will help agencies to make full use of data, especially since the barriers to critical data have been removed. But he also stressed the need for data privacy and security.

Mr. Shah also launched a regional Forensic Science Laboratory in Ballari, remotely from the city. The lab will serve Ballari, Vijayanagar, and Koppal districts. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said this was part of the regional FSLs that are being set up across the State.

"A regional FSL was inaugurated at Hubballi in March 2022 and now another has been opened in Ballari. Soon similar regional FSLs will be set up in Kalaburagi, Davanagere, Mangaluru, and Mysuru," he said. These labs will have computer forensics, DNA testing, and all other advanced forensic analysis facilities. The forensic testing capacity which was 16,000 per year in 2014, has shot up to 24,000 in 2021 and will be upgraded to 48,000 tests by 2023.

The Karnataka State Police also launched the e-beat system app to be deployed across the State from Tuesday. The beat system presently monitored by ledgers placed in residences in the area where constables on the beat will sign, will now be replaced by contactless QR Code which the constable will have to scan using the app. This will help prevent any tampering by constables on the ground and also help the department monitor the beat system better, the police said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah praying tributes on the occasion of Basava Jayanti in Bengaluru on Tuesday; (above) dignitaries at the inauguration of Nrupatunga University. • SUDHAKARA JAIN & SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

'Regional languages will revolutionise NEP system'

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Union Minister Amit Shah said that regional languages will revolutionise the education system guided by National Education Policy, 2020.

He had recently waded into controversy by saying that people of different States should communicate with each other in Hindi, and not English.

In his inaugural address of the Nrupatunga University, he said the Narendra Modi-led Government had vowed to realise the dream of making India a knowledge-based superpower. He said the Union Government aspires to inculcate the culture of patriotism among students during the celebration of 75 years of independence.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said the Centre had granted ₹55 crore for Nrupatunga University.

Basavaraj Horatti meets Amit Shah

'Likely to step down as Legislative Council chairman on May 11'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

In a development indicating that the BJP could give party ticket for Karnataka West Teachers constituency to Legislative Council chairman Basavaraj Horatti, the veteran Lingayat leader met Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday.

Basavaraj Horatti

Mr. Horatti is likely to step down as the chairman in the second week of May and join the BJP officially after the schedule for the polls to Upper House is announced by the Election Commission.

The elections are to be held for two graduates' and two teachers' constituencies as the members are retiring on July 4. Mr. Horatti, who has been elected a record seven times from West Teachers constituency, is currently a member elected on JD(S) symbol. Earlier, he had announced his decision to quit the JD(S) and contest on the BJP ticket. His close aides said that all the decks had been cleared for him to join the BJP.

Sources close to Mr. Horatti told *The Hindu* that the veteran leader is likely to resign from his post on May 11 and join the BJP since the notification from the Election Commission is expected by May 10. "The modalities of joining the BJP are yet to be worked out. Once re-elected, the BJP top brass has assured him of making the chairman again," sources said, adding that Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and BJP State president Nalin Kumar Kateel were present during the meeting with Mr. Shah.

When asked if Mr. Horatti's age had come for discussion since a section of BJP workers in the State had raised the issue, sources said that it did not figure in the talks.

FROM PAGE ONE

BJP high command rules out leadership change in Karnataka

Meanwhile, the BJP high command is learnt to be thinking of allowing only a ministerial expansion in Karnataka. "We are in favour of a ministerial expansion. But it is not possible to fix a timeframe," the source said. "For now, we are not considering the idea of dropping any Ministers."

Meanwhile, Union Home Minister and BJP's key strategist Amit Shah wound up his visit to the State, which is the second in the last one month, on Tuesday without making any formal political announcement.

Though he participated in various official programmes, including the valedictory of the national-level university games, his political itinerary was confined to participating in a lunch hosted by the Chief Minister for the party legislators and MPs at his residence.

Mr. Shah surprised everyone by cancelling the office-bearers' meeting.

There was no clarity among the party's State leaders about the reason for the cancellation of the meeting. While some think that paucity of time and Basava Jayanti celebrations could be the reason, some others argue that Mr. Shah may have felt that there was no need to hold a bigger meeting presently.

Unlike his visit to the State prior to the earlier polls, Mr. Shah desisted from making any political announcements this time. This has increased anxiety among ministerial aspirants.

Recruitment scam: Four more arrested

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU/KALABURAGI

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on Tuesday arrested four more in the PSI recruitment scam, including two candidates on the selection list, one from Kalaburagi and another from Bengaluru.

The CID arrested constable Gajendra, posted at Konanakunte Police Station who got the first rank in the in-service category. He was named in the FIR filed at High Grounds Police Station. He is one among the 22 candidates who wrote the exam in Bengaluru, was selected, and suspected to have indulged in malpractices tampering the answer sheets. However, the CID is yet to identify who they paid the money to.

Meanwhile, the CID has uncovered malpractices similar to those committed at Gyan Jyoti English Medium School at M.S. Irani College, Kalaburagi, as well. An FIR was registered on Monday and three persons arrested on Tuesday.

Prakash Rathod, the investigating officer, had lodged a complaint at Station Bazar police station against Rudragouda Patil, the alleged kingpin; Chandrakant Kulkarni, a middleman; Prabhu, one of the candidates; and his father Sharanappa.

Chandrakanth Kulkarni was taken into custody late on Monday. Prabhu and Sharanappa were taken into CID custody on Tuesday morning.

Discrepancies in vacancy delaying recruitments in Kalyana Karnataka?

While various depts. list 3,447 vacancies, KPSC states only 1,386

SHARATH S. SRIVATSA
BENGALURU

Amid allegations over delay in recruitments for the Kalyana Karnataka region, it has emerged that the differences in vacancy figures for 2,161 posts between the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) and figures proposed by various departments could be causing the delay.

While various departments have listed out their vacancies taking the total to 3,447 vacant posts in Group A, B, and C, the KPSC has stated only 1,386 vacancies. These are vacancies that are to be filled under the employment and education benefits bestowed upon seven districts of Kalyana Karnataka region under the Article 371 (J).

In several cases, though the departments have listed the vacancies to be filled by the KPSC, the commission has said that no vacancies exist.

■ These are vacancies that are to be filled under the employment and education benefits bestowed upon seven districts of Kalyana Karnataka region under the Article 371 (J).

The departments

The differences in the figure have come from departments of Public Works, Higher Education, Urban Development, Primary and Secondary Education, Water Resources, Social Welfare, and Law.

For example, while the Public Works Department lists out 408 vacant posts, including 12 Group A posts, the KPSC figures say there are nil vacancies. Similarly, the Higher Education and Urban Development Departments have listed out vacancies at 354 and 383 respectively, the KPSC says there are no vacancies. The commission has informed the government that there are no vacancies to be filled in Water Resources and Primary and Secondary Education where as the departments have said 169 and 176 vacancies exist respectively.

'Haphazard manner'

Sources in the Government told *The Hindu* that the vast differences have come due to the proposals by the departments that are not in order. "The departments have sent the proposals in a haphazard manner without consideration for roaster system, reservation for physically challenged, ex-servicemen, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In such a situation, the commission cannot go ahead with the recruitment process."

Efforts are on to revise the proposals according to the guidelines, and the Cabinet sub-committee will be meeting soon to hammer out a solution, sources said.

Clarifications sought

Even in the total 1,386 listed as vacant by KPSC, documents show that recruitment process for 243 Group C has been completed and post-examination is underway for 290 posts. According to documents the commission has not received proposal from the departments for recruitment to fill 400 Group C, 69 Group B and 72 Group A posts. For filling up 118 posts, clarifications has been sought while courts have stayed appointments for 18 posts. As many as 81 posts are pending for selection list.

Meanwhile, slamming the Government for not finding a quick solution to the current issue over employment, the Deputy Leader of Janata Dal (Secular) Legislative Party Bandeppa Kashempur said: "When the region received special status under article 371 J, employment and education benefits were given but not financial inclusion. It is unfair for the region that the employment in government service continued to be delayed despite it being raised several times in the legislature."

He said: "It shows the commitment of the Government towards the region. By merely changing the name, the region will not see development."

Id, Basava Jayanti celebrated as 'harmony day' in Hubbali

The event was an attempt to counter hate mongering

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HUBBALLI

At a time when hate mongering is on the rise in Karnataka, an attempt to counter it in a meaningful manner was made in Hubballi on Tuesday, when both Id and Basava Jayanti fell on the same day.

Members of the Muslim and the Hindu community came together to celebrate the festivals as "Harmony Day" and the event also marked the beginning of a new organisation that aims to counter the divisive forces.

The programme began with a dance to the song "Allahu Akbar Enniro, Om Namah Shivaya Enniro" (Say Allahu Akbar, Say Om Namah Shivaya), setting the tone for the event.

After floral tributes to the portrait of 12th century social reformer Basavanna (Basaveshwara), the speakers said communal harmony and peaceful co-existence was the essence of India. However, vested interests had tried to divide society at various points of time, but had not succeeded fully. Now again similar forces were trying to divide society on the lines of religion, caste, and religious practices.

Syed Shah Kajuddin Khadri said the British had adopted the policy of divide and rule then and the same was being repeated now by some forces. He referred to the donation of land to a Sufi Saint 500 years ago by the Hindu ruler of Mysuru and said India had hundreds of such examples of rulers donating lands to saints, mutts, temples, dargahs, and churches, which explained what India was really all about.

Children present a dance on the theme of communal harmony in Hubballi on Tuesday. • KIRAN BAKALE

■ Syed Shah Kajuddin Khadri said the British adopted the policy of divide and rule then and the same was being repeated now by some forces. Writer Kum. Veerabhadrappa emphasised the need for being "Indian" rather than "Hindu".

Writer Kum. Veerabhadrappa emphasised the need for being "Indian" rather than "Hindu".

He said India was witnessing a dangerous trend of dividing society on the lines of religion, which needed to be resisted at all costs in the interest of the nation. Comparing the philosophy of Prophet Mohammed and Basavanna, he threw light on various similarities related to mass feeding and donations to the poor between the two faiths.

While Hubballi witnessed coming together of members of both communities, instances of Muslims celebrating Basava Jayanti were reported from various places across the North Karnataka region on Tuesday.

AAP to lay siege to KPSC office

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has announced a protest to lay siege to Udyoga Soudha, the head office of Karnataka Public Service Commission, on Wednesday.

"KPSC was created with an aim to provide jobs for youth of the State. But the Commission has failed its mandate and has become a shop where jobs are being sold for crores of rupees. We will lock up Udyoga Soudha," a statement from the party said.

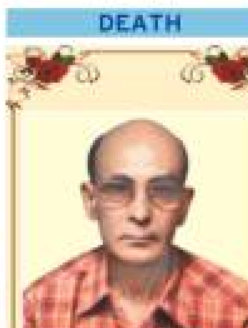
'Auctioning jobs'

The party also alleged that the ruling BJP Government had been "auctioning off" government jobs to the highest bidder when there is a larger unemployment crisis in the State. The protest will see former IPS officer Bhaskar Rao, farmer leader Kodihalli Chandrashekhar, and AAP State convener Pruthvi Reddy participate.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

DEATH



S. KRISHNAN
RETD. CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER, SBI

On 1st May 2022 surrounded by loved ones, he passed peacefully into the hands of the divine. He is remembered for his sharp intellect & wit, dignified personality and devotion to his family

S.N. Sathya, Srikanth & Uma Krishnan, Subhashini & Rajagopal and Family

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. K. Swaminathan Iyer
Income Tax Officer (Retd)
19.12.1949 - 04.05.2021

His legacy lives on in the hearts and minds of so many who were touched by his compassion and generosity.
He is sorely missed by his children, grandchildren, family and friends.
Ph: 9841574770

Trial courts can't entertain private plaints on money laundering: HC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Trial courts cannot initiate proceeding under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering (PML) Act, 2002, based on private complaints and they can do so only on the complaint by officers authorised under the PML Act.

Justice S. Sunil Dutt Yadav passed the order while allowing a petition filed by MLC Shashil G. Namoshi and three others, all former office-bearers of Kalaburagi-based Hyderabad Karnataka Education Society.

The petitioners had questioned the legality of summons issued by a trial court in Mangaluru to them on taking cognisance of an offence based on a private complaint lodged in 2016. The complainants O.H. Amresh of Kalaburagi and Linganagouda of Bengaluru had alleged that the petitioners, had indulged in money laundering.

On analysing the PML Act and Cr.PC, the High Court said that it is clear that the PML Act, being a special statute, the procedure prescribed would prevail over the general procedure prescribed under the Cr.PC where it is at variance with the general procedure.

"Once the specific procedure prescribed under the PML Act provides for taking of cognizance only upon a complaint in writing made by a specified person, the question of falling back upon the procedure under the Cr.PC to entertain a private complaint as envisaged under Section 190 (1) (a) of Cr.P.C. does not arise, in light of the rider to the applicability of Cr.PC in Section 46 of the PML Act," the High Court observed.

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
INVITATION OF BIDS- TWO COVER – ITEMWAR TENDER SYSTEM

IFB No.	11 / F. Manapparai Mplty./Outlived/ 2022/ CE-TNJ/ SDO/ dt.02.05.2022.
Name of Work	Providing source Augmentation, Replacement of AC Pipes into DI Pipes between Kuppachipatti Booster Station to Manapparai Municipality including Branch Mains, Replacement of Pumpsets at Head Work, Booster Stations in CWSS to Manapparai Municipality and 50 other wayside Habitations in Karur and Trichy Districts Under Outlived 2021-22 (Period of completion: 12 months and Free maintenance 3 months)
Fund	Under CGF for the year 2020-21 & 2022-2023
Approximate value of work	Rs. 14.21 Crore
Bid Security	Rs.10,66,000/-
Eligible class	Class-I
Tender Invitee	The Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, No 37, 1st Floor, Easwari Nagar, Medical College Road, Thanjavur - 613004. Tamil Nadu.
Sale of Bid & Place of sale	From 10-05-2022 to 10-06-2022 at O/o the Executive Engineer, TWAD Board, Maintenance Division, Trichy by cash or Demand Draft on any Scheduled/Nationalized bank payable at Trichy for Rs.1120/- (Rs.1000+GST@ 12%)-each, by post Rs. 500/ additional (each).
Downloading	www.tenders.tn.gov.in and www.twadboard.gov.in (free of cost)f

1.	Date and time of Pre bid meeting	25.05.2022 at 11.00 AM
2.	Last date and time of downloading bid documents	10.06.2022 upto 05.45 PM
3.	Last date and time for receipt of bid document	13.06.2022 upto 03.00 PM
4.	Date and time for opening of Technical bid	13.06.2022 at 03.30 PM

DIPR /2128 / TENDER / 2022
SAVE WATER, CONSERVE WATER, EVERY DROP COUNTS
Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Thanjavur

IN BRIEF

'Better Wayanad's aspirational ranking'

KALPETTA

Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani has said that the ranking of Wayanad district under the Transformation of Aspirational Districts programme of the Centre should be improved in a time-bound manner. It aims to expeditiously improve the socio-economic status of 117 districts across 28 States. Wayanad is the lone district selected from Kerala under the programme.

Power generation resumes at Simhadri

VISAKHAPATNAM

All the four 500MW units at the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)- Simhadri in Visakhapatnam, which were shut down around 3.30 a.m. on Tuesday due to failure in the power grid, resumed production by the evening, after the issues were resolved. The grid reportedly had failed earlier due to some line problems. The shutdown in the early hours resulted in power outage in Visakhapatnam district and Anakapalli and Alluri Sitharamaraju districts of A.P.

Food poisoning: shigella found in samples

KANNUR

Health officials have found the presence of shigella sonnei bacteria in the stool samples collected from three children who fell ill and were hospitalised after consuming shawarma from an eatery at Cheruvathur in Kerala's Kasaragod. Officials had sent the samples of children for testing to the Medical College Hospital, Kozhikode. A 16-year-old girl, Devananda, died and 31 others are undergoing treatment after they ate shawarma from a hotel on Friday.

Thrikkakara bypoll: UDF selects Uma Thomas

KPCC presents united face even as hurdles lie ahead

G. ANAND
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Congress appears to have stolen a march on its rivals by naming Uma Thomas as its candidate for the Thrikkakkara Assembly bye-election.

The CPI(M) and the BJP will soon follow suit so as not to be outpaced by the Congress in the campaign.

The opposing fronts view the bypoll as a yardstick of the second Pinarayi Vijayan government's performance and a bellwether of the public's position on the SilverLine project.

Ms. Thomas is the wife of the late Thikkakara MLA P.T. Thomas and the party hopes to cash in on the sympathy that followed her husband's death. Ms. Thomas is no political novice. She has a history of student activism and significant election experience, shadowing Thomas on his many campaign trails.

Uma Thomas

By settling on Ms. Thomas as the party's obvious choice, the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) has side-stepped the factious battles that often herald candidate selection. It has, for now, presented a unified front. The KPCC pacified Congress leader Dominic Presentation's scepticism about candidate selection.

The Congress also reckoned that Ms. Thomas' presence in the electoral field could frustrate any efforts by dissident Congress veteran K.V. Thomas to throw a spanner in the works of the party. Prof. Thomas had said somewhat cryptically that he would back "development", which the Congress viewed as a euphemism for supporting the SilverLine project.

Nevertheless, the ease in candidate selection belied the formidable hurdles faced by the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) in Thrikkakara.

T.N. Govt. bans carrying seer on palanquin

RDO cites Article 23 of Constitution

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MAYILADUTHURAI

The Dharmapuram Adheenam has been refused permission by the Mayiladuthurai district administration to conduct *pattina pravesam*, a customary practice during which the pontiff is carried on a palanquin by devotees.

Mayiladuthurai Revenue Divisional Officer J. Balaji issued the ban order for the event scheduled for May 22, terming the practice a "violation of human rights". The RDO cited Article 23 of Constitution in his ban order.

The order was issued in the wake of objections raised by Dravidar Kazhagam and other fraternal outfits. A description of the warnings by the outfits that permitting *pattana pravesam* would trigger a law and order problem was submitted to the district administration by the Deputy Superintendent of Police. Proceedings of the weekly law and order review meeting convened by the Collector was also factored in for issuing the ban order.

> The practice is a violation of human rights.
>
> J. BALAJI
> Mayiladuthurai Revenue Divisional Officer

The RDO cited Article 23 of Indian Constitution in his ban order. It states: "Traffic in human beings and begar [compulsory labour] and other similar forms of forced labour are prohibited and any contravention of this provision shall be an offence punishable in accordance with law."

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 16.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Kerala, Mahe and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over central Maharashtra, Vidarbha, Marathwada, Telangana, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Rayalaseema, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	–	30.0	24.2	Kozhikode	0.3	36.4	25.9
Ahmedabad	–	41.3	24.7	Kurnool	–	42.6	30.0
Aizawl	1	28.7	17.2	Lucknow	–	37.5	25.9
Allahabad	–	39.3	27.3	Madurai	–	39.8	27.3
Bengaluru	–	34.0	22.4	Mangaluru	–	33.9	26.5
Bhopal	–	41.9	25.6	Mumbai	–	34.7	27.5
Bhubaneswar	–	39.0	27.9	Mysuru	–	35.0	20.0
Chandigarh	–	37.2	29.6	New Delhi	–	38.4	28.5
Chennai	–	36.5	29.0	Patna	–	34.0	23.0
Coimbatore	–	36.2	24.4	Port Blair	3	33.1	26.2
Dehradun	–	35.7	23.7	Puducherry	–	35.3	28.0
Gangtok	–	21.3	12.9	Pune	–	38.5	22.8
Goa	–	34.6	26.5	Raipur	17	44.2	20.0
Guwahati	4	30.0	21.2	Ranchi	–	35.4	23.3
Hubballi	–	37.0	23.0	Shillong	4	21.5	14.4
Hyderabad	–	39.4	28.4	Shimla	6	23.9	13.0
Imphal	2	28.2	18.6	Srinagar	0.4	29.7	13.9
Jaipur	–	40.3	30.5	Thiruvananthapuram	–	34.3	27.2
Kochi	–	32.6	26.6	Tiruchi	–	40.3	26.5
Kohima	–	25.0	13.8	Vijayawada	–	39.4	28.8
Kolkata	–	29.6	24.5	Visakhapatnam	15	35.6	22.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — **Yesterday**

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	11	12	–	286	162	
Bengaluru	7	28	13	73	120	
Chennai	14	7	34	53	63	
Delhi	25	25	83	225	284	
Hyderabad	19	60	16	115	141	
Kolkata	6	87	38	29	45	
Lucknow	9	62	47	218	157	
Mumbai	7	–	16	–	224	
Pune	64	22	57	115	82	
Visakhapatnam	14	28	18	39	70	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bhiwadi, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 323 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Gadag, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 30

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Tech. has secularised digital platforms: Memon

At ACJ convocation, senior columnist says journalists now have to navigate an ocean of information

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

"We have moved from the middle ages because of technology and the ease of communication due to technology has been the most remarkable transformation that we have seen which directly impacts the profession of journalism," Ayaz Memon, senior journalist and columnist, said here on Tuesday.

Delivering the Lawrence Dana Pinkham Memorial Lecture, 2022, on "Benefits and challenges for the media in the age of technology" at the Convocation of the Asian College of Journalism Class (ACJ) of 2021-22, Mr. Memon said technology had secularised and democratised the digital platforms and had put the onus on professional journalists to navigate through this ocean of information while remaining relevant.

(From left) Prema Sridevi; Himanshu Kala; Sashi Kumar, Chairman, Media Development Foundation and ACJ; Ayaz Memon, senior journalist and columnist; Sandeep Singh; Shyamlal Yadav; and N. Ram, Trustee, Media Development Foundation, and Director, The Hindu Group Publishing Pvt. Ltd., at the ACJ Convocation on Tuesday. • B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Mr. Memon also said there was unequal importance given by some journalists to tweets as basis for their stories. "This is a source of concern. This is the laziest form of journalism," he said.

Mr. Memon said irrespective of which field of journalism one was in, it was the greatest privilege in life to have a grandstand view of events, "for which even a family member or someone close to you might be ready to give a million bucks to be a part of".

N. Ram, former Editor-in-Chief of *The Hindu*, said the state of the news media and the state of journalism, while being closely related, were two different things and should not be conflated. "Everyone knows that the economics, ecosystem and ways of the news media have been disrupted in the most profound way in the digital age by the technological transformations and emergence and impact of the social media as a game changing behemoth".

The ACJ journalism award for investigative journalism for 2021 was given to Shyamlal Yadav and Sandeep Singh of *The Indian Express* for the report on the Ayodhya land deals, while the K.P. Narayana Kumar Memorial Award for Social Impact Journalism for 2021 was awarded to Prema Sridevi and Himanshu Kalra for their documentary on manual scavengers. The ACJ also announced a new award category, The Ashish Yechury Memorial Award for Photojournalism in memory of its alumnus from the 2011 batch who lost his life to COVID.

'Visit martyrs families before entering OU'

Students' wing burns Rahul's effigy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

The students' wing of Telangana Rashtra Samithi has demanded that All India Congress Committee (AICC) leader Rahul Gandhi visit the families of martyrs, who had sacrificed their lives during the movement for Statehood to Telangana from 2009, before visiting the Osmania University campus.

Activists of the students' wing took out a protest procession on the university campus on Tuesday and burnt an effigy of the AICC leader in front of the Arts College building stating that they would obstruct his visit in case he tried to enter the campus without visiting the martyrs families.

They sought to know why he had not visited the families of those who sacrificed their lives for Statehood and why he was insisting on the visit now.

The students' wing leaders, including its general secretary P. Ramesh, secretaries Jangaiah, Rajesh Naik, B. Nagaraju and others suggested the Congress party and the AICC leader not to disturb the peaceful atmosphere on the campus.

Promise on statehood

It was due to the Congress' decision to go back on the December 9, 2009 promise on statehood a large number of youth of Telangana had ended their lives but the AICC leader did not visit either the families of those who sacrificed their lives or the university campus during the Statehood movement.

Ham radio operators, police rescue 'trafficked' Bangladeshi woman

The police arrest two persons; victim to be sent to welfare home

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM

Alert Ham radio operators, with the help of the local police, could rescue a 22-year-old woman allegedly trafficked from Bangladesh, here on Tuesday.

As per the police and the statement given by the woman, she had come to India from Bangladesh a few days ago on a sightseeing tour with the help of three of her friends, who had allegedly taken away her passport in Kolkata.

She was allegedly sent to Visakhapatnam on April 28 and asked to contact Vineet, a native of Kerala, residing in the Port City. Since then, she had been staying with Vineet and another woman at a house in Sujatha Nagar under the Pendurthi Police Station limits. The Bangladeshi woman said she grew suspicious as there was a steady flow of young women to the house, and she could overhear them talking about financial deals and a proposal to send her to Mumbai.

■ The victim had come to India from Bangladesh a few days ago with the help of three of her friends, who had allegedly taken away her passport in Kolkata

'Physically abused'

The woman also alleged that she was confined to a locked room and physically abused.

On Monday night, the woman said she was able to call her brother, a Ham radio operator in Bangladesh, and tell him about her plight. As per a Ham radio operator of Dolphin Amateur Radio Repeater Club (DARRC) in Visakhapatnam, the woman's brother got in touch with a Ham operator in West Bengal, who in turn contacted the local police.

But during the first search-and-rescue operation on Monday night, the police team could not locate the house.

It was then that the West Bengal Ham operator got in touch with me, and I immediately rushed to the location, and based on the address given and landmarks suggested, I scanned the area and could locate the house in the early hours of Tuesday, said the DARRC member.

"I have informed the police about the address, rescued the girl through the window and locked the house from outside. Meanwhile. the police team reached the spot and took the man and the woman into their custody," he said.

"It looks like the girl has been trafficked from Bangladesh and sent to Visakhapatnam. Both the accused are in our custody and investigation is on. Meanwhile, we will send the rescued woman to the Woman and Child Welfare Home," said the Pendurthi police.

Open is Kerala's first unicorn start-up

Pinarayi hails milestone achievement

T. NANDAKUMAR
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Marking a major milestone in Kerala's start-up ecosystem, homegrown company Open Financial Technologies has entered the coveted unicorn club with a new funding round, raising $50 million from the Mumbai-headquartered IIFL Finance.

A neo-banking platform for SMEs, the Kerala-based start-up is also India's 100th unicorn, entering the elite club with a valuation of $1 billion.

Proud day

"This is indeed a proud day for the Kerala start-up ecosystem," Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said in a video message from the U.S. "I believe this is just a beginning and that more unicorns will arise from Kerala and contribute to India's quest to emerge as world's largest start-up ecosystem," he said.

The Chief Minister added that the company has proposed to invest ₹200 crore over the next five years to set up a Centre of Excellence and fintech accelerator in Kochi to bolster the State's start-up ecosystem.

Founded by Anish Achuthan, Mabel Chacko, Deena Jacob and Ajeesh Achuthan in 2017, the start-up has partnership with over a dozen top banks in India. Open has also built Asia's first digital banking platform for SMEs, start-ups, and freelancers.

Founders of the Open Financial Technologies. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Kerala Startup Mission which is also an equity holder in the company had provided hand-holding for the company in the initial stages with an assistance of ₹2 crore under the Fund of Funds programme.

Noting that Open's achievement is a proud moment for the State's start-up ecosystem, John M. Thomas, KSUM CEO, said the milestone achievement would bolster the confidence of other start-ups. "Open has proved the importance of providing innovative services and sustaining in-depth focus to attain growth in a niche sector," he added.

Rape case: CBI inspects Cliff House

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The CBI inspected Cliff House, the official residence of the Kerala Chief Minister, here on Tuesday.

The examination was part of the agency's probe into the politically charged rape case involving many Congress leaders, notably former Kerala Chief Minister Oommen Chandy. The survivor, widely perceived as the victim of a sex-for-political patronage racket during the previous United Democratic Front (UDF) government, accompanied the CBI investigators to the Cliff House. She, also an accused in the solar scam case that rocked the Chandy government in 2014, had alleged that many leaders had extorted sexual favours from her.

Impersonator seeks money from Special Chief Secretary's contacts

Cybercrooks impersonate Arvind Kumar, seek money from HMDA employees

STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD

Hyderabad city police are on the lookout for a person who allegedly impersonated senior IAS officer and Special Chief Secretary (Urban Development) Arvind Kumar and attempted to extort money from people known to him and his staff at Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA).

In a Tweet on Tueesday, Mr. Kumar said: "Someone is sending messages from 9313411812 asking for money from my staff /others !! Upon being informed, I have filed immediately a police complaint. It's not me and please ignore any message if recd."

The senior bureaucrat tagged Telangana DGP Mahender Reddy and City Police Commissioner C. V. Anand and shared the screenshot of the WhatsApp number wherein his photograph was used as the profile picture.

Mr. Anand said that he received a complaint from Mr. Kumar via WhatsApp and action will be taken against the impersonator as per the law.

Meanwhile, Jubilee Hills inspector S. Rajashekar Reddy said that HMDA Enforcement inspector S. Venkatesh lodged a complaint stating that their employees received WhatsApp messages from 9313411812 impersonating Mr. Kumar and attempted to extort money.

One of the employees received a message which said "There is something I need you to do. I'm in a meeting with limited phone calls and want you to transfer money on this number."

Based on the complaint lodged by Mr. Venkatesh, a case under Sections 419 (Punishment for cheating by impersonation) of the Indian Penal Code and Sections 66 (C) and (D) of the Information Technology Act against an unknown person and a probe was launched. On Monday, Mahabubnagar Collector S Venkat Rao took to Twitter stating that his mobile and Google account was hacked. "The culprits again started with another mobile number and asking money. I filed Criminal case. Pl ignore any msgs you received from any new number. Pl ignore profile pic they are using," Mr. Rao tweeted.

Police suspect Chennai links to ephedrine

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA

Special teams constituted to probe the ephedrine drug racket in Andhra Pradesh have been sent to Bengaluru, Chennai, Sattenapalli and Hyderabad, to identify the persons who identified himself as Gopi Sai. He reportedly booked the consignment to Australia on January 31.

Police who questioned Gopi Sai said, "We suspect that the accused had used the name of Gopi Sai, who did engineering in Chennai, to carry out the operation from Vijayawada."

NTR District Police Commissioner Kanthi Rana Tata said the racket had links to Chennai, and special teams have been assigned to probe the case in different angles.

Two more members quit AMMA complaints panel

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

A day after actor Maala Parvathi resigned from the Internal Complaints Committee of the Association of Malayalam Movie Artists (AMMA) in protest against the association's "reluctance" to take disciplinary action against actor-producer Vijay Babu who is charged with rape and naming the survivor, two more members, actors Shwetha Menon and Cuckoo Parameswaran, followed suit.

Ms. Parameswaran said the resignation was in view of AMMA not acting along the lines of the recommendations of the ICC.

The court's burden

A national body may be better placed to plan upgradation of judicial infrastructure

It is unfortunate that the proposal by the Chief Justice of India (CJI) for a national judicial infrastructure corporation with corresponding bodies at the State level, did not find favour with many Chief Ministers at the recent joint conference of Chief Justices and Chief Ministers. A special purpose vehicle, vested with statutory powers to plan and implement infrastructure projects for the judiciary, would have been immensely helpful in augmenting facilities for the judiciary, given the inadequacies in court complexes across the country. However, it is a matter of relief that there was agreement on the idea of State-level bodies for the same purpose, with representation to the Chief Ministers so that they are fully involved in the implementation. The CJI, N.V. Ramana, who had mooted the proposal some months ago, sought to dispel the impression that a national body would usurp the powers of the executive, and underscored that it could have adequate representation of the Union/States. He had flagged the gulf between the available infrastructure and the justice needs of the people. If his proposal had been accepted, the available funding as a centrally sponsored scheme, with the Centre and States sharing the burden on a 60:40 ratio, could have been gone to the national authority, which would allocate the funds through high courts based on need. It is likely that Chief Ministers did not favour the idea as they wanted a greater say in the matter.

Given the experience of allocated funds for judicial infrastructure going unspent in many States, it remains to be seen how far the proposed State-level bodies would be successful in identifying needs and speeding up implementation. It will naturally require greater coordination between States and the respective High Courts. Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju has promised assistance from the Centre to the States for creating the required infrastructure, especially for the lower judiciary. While it is a welcome sign that the focus is on infrastructure, unmitigated pendency, chronic shortage of judges and the burgeoning docket size remain major challenges. CJI Ramana flagged some aspects of the Government's contribution to the burden of the judiciary – the failure or unwillingness to implement court orders, leaving crucial questions to be decided by the courts and the absence of forethought and broad-based consultation before passing legislation. While this may be unpalatable to the executive, it is quite true that litigation spawned by government action or inaction constitutes a huge part of the courts' case burden. The conversation between the judiciary and the executive at the level of Chief Justices and Chief Ministers may help bring about an atmosphere of cooperation so that judicial appointments, infrastructure upgradation and downsizing pendency are seen as common concerns.

Weighing the evidence

Emerging evidence, not precedents, must govern India's policy on vaccination

The Supreme Court in a decisive order has laid out a fine balance between individual liberty and the state's right to impose restrictions in the interests of public safety. An individual had the right to refuse vaccination and though the Government could "impose limitations" on rights of individuals, it had to be "reasonable and proportionate" to the extent that it achieved the objective, in this case, containing the spread of the coronavirus. The current evidence, the Court reasoned, suggested that unvaccinated individuals were no more likely to spread the virus than those vaccinated and, therefore, people could not be denied access to public places, services and resources for being unvaccinated. However, this was no blanket order, and if infection rates increased and vaccines demonstrably reduced susceptibility to infections, the Government was within its rights to impose restrictions. The order underscores scientific reasoning and that the pandemic also continues to pose tough, science conundrums that generate new knowledge and challenge received wisdom. Last year, this time, India was besieged by the second pandemic and also woefully short of vaccines. The central policy then was to rationalise access to vaccines because demand outstripped supply. While availability was a key factor, it was also because scientific evidence showed vaccination stemmed progression to severe disease and the priority was to save lives.

Close to 75% of Indians have had at least one vaccine shot and a good proportion have hybrid immunity. Newer, highly transmissible variants and the West's experience, of infections being rife despite triple-shots, have all depressed demand for boosters in India. While last year, before the second wave, vaccine hesitancy was ascribed to the low uptake, it is quite likely now that people are exercising their option of waiting for more kinds of the vaccine. The current attitude is foregrounded in the ground reality that daily infections are low despite a complete opening up of normal life. In the first year of the pandemic, when vaccines were in a nascent stage and the virus was raging, the scientific wisdom was that lock-downs and vaccination of two thirds of the population would end the pandemic – an idea that has not come to pass. Thus, it could very well be that newer kinds of vaccines (proven to curb transmission), may change the understanding of the best possible means to contain the blight. The suppression of individual liberty for the greater good is perhaps among the oldest and toughest questions that democracies grapple with; and beyond the orders, it is judicial reasoning that influences policy and future discourse when the facts on the ground change. The authorities must keep scientific evidence at the forefront when they take decisions that affect individual choice.

Bill assent, a delay and the Governor's options

With its provision for definite choices, the Constitution makes it obligatory for the Governor to act without a wait

P.D.T. ACHARY

The State of Tamil Nadu has been witnessing a confrontation between the elected government and the State Governor on the question of giving assent to the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) Bill (linked to an all India pre-medical entrance test) passed by the State Assembly. Giving assent to a Bill passed by the legislature is a normal constitutional act performed by the Governor. But of late, even such normal acts have become a source of confrontation between State governments and the Governors. The conduct of Governors in certain States follows a definite pattern which causes a great deal of disquiet to elected governments as well as to those who have faith in the constitutional order.

On the advice of Ministers

The position of a Governor in the constitutional setup in India needs to be clearly understood in order to grasp the significance of the actions as well as responses of Governors in the politico-administrative contexts emerging from time to time in States. The Governor is an appointee of the President, which means the Union government. Although Article 154(1) of the Constitution vests in the Governor the executive power of the State, he is required to exercise that power in accordance with the Constitution. In other words, the Governor can act only on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers. Though there is not much deviation from the language used in the Government of India Act of 1935 in the context of the powers of the British-era Governors, it is a settled constitutional position that the Governor is only a constitutional head and the executive power of the State is exercised by the Council of Ministers. In *Shamsher Singh vs State of Punjab* (1974), the Supreme Court had clearly affirmed this position in the following words: "We declare the law of this branch of our Constitution to be that the President and Governor, custodians of all executives and other powers under various Articles, shall, by virtue of these provisions, exercise their formal constitutional powers only upon and in accordance with the advice of their Ministers save in a few well known exceptional situations".

Dr. Ambedkar explained the position of the Governor in the Constituent Assembly as follows: "The Governor under the Constitution has no functions which he can discharge by himself: no functions at all." The Sarkaria Commission restates this position in its report, "it is a well-recognized principle that so long as the council of ministers enjoys [the] confidence of the Assembly its advice in these matters, unless patently unconstitutional, must be deemed as binding on the governor". In 2016, a five-judge constitution Bench of the Supreme Court (the Nabam Rebia case) reaffirmed the above position on the governors' powers in our constitutional setup.

The pathways available

It may be stated here that this analysis of the Governor's powers is meant to enable readers to have a perspective on the issue of the Governor of Tamil Nadu not deciding on the request for assent to the NEET Bill passed by the Assembly even after the passage of more than two months. What exactly are the options before the Governor in the matter of giving assent to a Bill passed by the Assembly?

Article 200 of the Constitution provides for four alternative courses of action for a Governor when a Bill after being passed by the legislature is presented to him for his assent. Assent of the Governor or the President is necessary for a Bill to become law. The Governor can give his assent straightaway or withhold his assent. He may also reserve it for the consideration of the President, in which case the assent is given or withheld by the President. The fourth option is to return the Bill to the legislature with the request that it may reconsider the Bill or any particular provision of the Bill. The Governor can also suggest any new amendment to the Bill. When such a message is received from the Governor, the legislature is required to reconsider his recommendations quickly. However, if the legislature again passes the Bill without accepting any of the amendments suggested by the Governor he is constitutionally bound to give assent to the Bill.

ARUNANGSU ROY CHOWDHURY

The Governor of Tamil Nadu returned the NEET Bill to the Assembly for reconsideration of the Bill. Accordingly, the Assembly held a special session in the first week of February and passed it again and presented it to the Governor for his assent. He has not assented to the Bill so far.

A wrong view

In the meantime, some sources in the Raj Bhavan have reportedly said that the Constitution has not fixed any time line within which to act. This, then, is the crux of the issue. The point that is made by these sources is that since the Constitution has not fixed any time frame, the Governor can postpone a decision indefinitely. Needless to say, it is a very wrong view.

While it is true that Article 200 does not lay down any time frame for the Governor to take action under this Article, it is imperative on the part of the Governor to exercise one of the options contained therein. A constitutional authority cannot circumvent a provision of the Constitution by taking advantage of an omission. The option mentioned in Article 200 is meant to be exercised by the Governor without delay. The context of Article 200 needs to be understood to be able to take the correct decision. After a Bill is passed by the legislature, it is sent to the Governor immediately. Although Article 200 does not say by what time the Governor should take the next step, it clearly and unambiguously states the options for him to exercise. It is obvious that if the Governor does not exercise any of those options he will not be acting in conformity with the Constitution because non-action is not an option contained in Article 200.

But sitting on the Bill after the Assembly has passed it again and sent it to him is impermissible under the Constitution. Article 200 (proviso) clearly says that when the Assembly reconsiders the Bill on the recommendations of the Governor and presents it to him, he shall not withhold assent. The Constitution makers could never have intended that the Governor could sit on a Bill passed by the legislature for as long as he wants and take advantage of the absence of any specific time frame.

In fact, the words used in Article 200 "... it shall be presented to the governor and the governor shall declare...." indicates that the Constitution requires the Governor to act without delay upon the presentation of the Bill. The reason is obvious. The legislature passes a Bill because there is an urgency about it. But if the Governor does not act, the will of the legislature is frustrated. It is not the constitutional policy to frustrate the legislative will as expressed through the Bill. Therefore, in view of the mandatory provision in the proviso to Article 200, it is clear that the Constitution does not permit the Governor to sit on a Bill after the Assembly re-submits it to him after reconsideration.

An undemocratic option

Giving assent to a Bill passed by the legislature is a part of the legislative process and not of the executive power. But the Constitution has by providing for definite options made it obligatory for the Governor to exercise any of those options without delay. Withholding of assent, though an option, is not normally exercised by Governors because it will be an extremely unpopular step. Besides, withholding assent to a Bill by the Governor, an appointee of the President, neutralises the entire legislative exercise by an elected legislature enjoying the support of the people. In the opinion of this writer, this option is undemocratic and essentially against federalism. In the United Kingdom it is unconstitutional for the monarch to refuse to assent to a Bill passed by Parliament. Similarly, in Australia, refusal of assent to a Bill by the crown is considered repugnant to the federal system.

In our constitutional system, the Governor or the President is not personally responsible for their acts. It is the elected government that is responsible. Under Article 361, the President or a Governor is not answerable to any court for anything done in the exercise and performance of their powers and duties. But when a Governor does not take any decision on a Bill which is put up for his assent, he is not acting in exercise and performance of the duties cast upon him.

P.D.T. Achary is former Secretary General, Lok Sabha

A buyout that could make a public square private

Sceptics are of the opinion that Twitter will become more centralised and biased towards Elon Musk's ideals

V. SRIDHAR

The recent announcement by Elon Musk, entrepreneur, investor, business magnate and the world's richest man, in acquiring a stake in Twitter for $46.5 billion, thereby turning a public limited company to a private one, has made headlines across the world. There are proponents of the deal who say that Mr. Musk will make Twitter more open, ensure freedom of speech and provide choice to users for subscription-based services. However, sceptics are of the opinion that Twitter will become more centralised in its operations and processes, thereby may make its content moderation more biased towards certain ideals that Mr. Musk possibly endorses.

Danger of exclusion

While the devil is in the details and how Mr. Musk plans to change the way in which content moderation is carried out in Twitter, what happens when a significant social media intermediary such as Twitter goes private?

First, economists define a public good as one that is non-excludable and a private good that is excludable. Twitter, having about '330 million monthly active users' has been a forum of expression and the "go-to" place for many including politicians, celebrities, activists and scholars; it resembles a town hall, as Mr. Musk has himself been quoted as saying. Even after upping the word limit to 280 characters, Twitter continues to be the only microblogging platform for powerful short messaging with features such as pinning, Twitter moments, Twitter highlights, and Twitter lists to name a few. The Twitter Application Programming Interfaces (API) along with powerful advanced search features enables users to analyse Tweets for trends in global politics, the media, news and so on.

However, when this public forum is taken to the private space, the danger lies in excludability – exclusion of certain sets of users based on some criterion including the fees that they pay for their services and their orientation towards certain ideologies, race or religion, sexual orientation and even demographics.

Issue of compliance

The second issue is the tussle between large and significant social media intermediaries and national governments. In one of his articles, Professor Edward Lee at the Illinois Tech Chicago-Kent College of Law, U.S., compared these large digital platforms to virtual governments that span the globe. He advocated mutual comity and respect between these virtual governments and national governments to disperse power in cyberpolitics.

AFP

It is also pointed out that for Internet platforms to be considered virtual governments, they should adhere to basic democratic accountability in formulating their policies and procedures, including being transparent and improving public participation and promoting non-partisan decision making. Twitter, which currently has more than 25 million users in India, has exhibited a lackadaisical approach in reacting to the requirements of the Government. It took a visit by the Delhi police to its office in India for Twitter to adhere to the Information Technology Rules 2021 in appointing compliance, nodal and grievance redress officers, way past the due date prescribed in the rules. What is the guarantee that Mr. Musk's Twitter will be any better in responding to such policies and regulations of national governments, outside the U.S. for promoting grievance redress and content moderation to name a few?

The right model

The third issue is the subscription-based model, as suggested by Mr. Musk. Professor Hal Varian at the University of California Berkeley, as Google's Chief Economist, invented and deployed a variation of the Generalized Second-Price auction in Google sponsored advertisements. This model, quite contrary to a subscription-based pricing model, subsidises search users for zero payment for services. While privacy advocates argue that personal information of users is being traded for advertisement revenue (that has reached more than $200 billion annually for Google), the model exhibits a number of externalities that include opening up a doodle search window for all things in life, all at the click of a mouse. The model also provides an outlet for small and niche businesses to market and sell their products and services to the world at large. This model that minimises information asymmetry, even for those in unprivileged sections of society, has become possible only due to the free and open search, subsidised by advertisement revenue.

On the other hand, the subscription-based model promotes excludability; at the same time, it creates a chasm between those who have subscribed and those who have not, possibly creating tension across these groups. Though the possible privacy violations that occur in the advertisement model of Internet firms are harmful to users in certain settings, the alternative does not seem to be any better.

It is with this that we look at Mr. Musk's takeover of Twitter with scepticism. Open questions include whether any strong competitor to Twitter would emerge as an alternative for microblogging users; whether Twitter will indeed become more transparent, accountable and responsible; and whether the platform that started with the tweet "just setting up my twttr.", published on March 21, 2006, by its co-founder Jack Dorsey, will stand the test of time.

V. Sridhar, Professor at IIIT Bangalore, is currently visiting the University of Southern California. The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Address unemployment

The rise in the unemployment rate in the country, from 7.6% in March to 7.83% in April, as in the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy Pvt. Ltd.'s reports, is a matter of concern. While unemployment rates in rural areas have reportedly fallen, the urban unemployment rate jumping to 9.22% in April from 8.28% in March does not reflect a satisfactory economic situation. With steadily rising retail inflation propelled mainly by increased fuel prices, consumer demand too has apparently slumped. The time has perhaps come for the Government to hold serious talks with industry on the rather grim unemployment situation, with special emphasis on how the private sector can help provide more employment. The Central and State governments also need to take the necessary steps to fill up vacancies reported in various government departments.

A. MOHAN,
Chennai

Own outfit

Prashant Kishor, the 'successful' political strategist, after hobnobbing with various political parties at the national and regional levels, has naturally developed an urge to test the political waters. So far so good. Launching a political outfit, even at the State level (Inside pages, May 3), is not a joke; it needs huge funds and the wherewithal to sustain it for years and to face elections. Mr. Kishor may have worked with all the important political parties, but that does not mean that he is privy to all the intricacies of mobilising supporters, funds and 'manipulating' things. Every person has a right to launch a political party or an organisation, and Mr. Kishor has a tough test to prove that he will not end up as an "also ran".

GOVARDHANA MYNEEDU,
Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

Road to political revival

The Congress has not been able to market its achievements (Editorial page, "A grand old party, the demanding path to its revival", May 3). It cannot be that there were no success stories in its decade-long governance from 2004-2014. The economy rose to dizzy heights, Aadhaar was introduced, MGNREGA took wing and the RTI empowered the common man. The Opposition then (and the party in power now), successfully highlighted failures, scams and issues that were never truly established. There was a strong, calculated and loud voice. There are failures are far as the government of the day is concerned, but it is again a weak Congress voice that has failed to highlight these shortcomings. Marketing is an art that the Congress seems to lack and which the ruling party is very good at that. Had there been the same rise in prices in fuel and essential commodities today – and had it been under Congress rule – there would have been a thunderstorm. The present government cleverly justifies and shifts the blame to States.

BALASUBRAMANIAM PAVANI,
Secunderabad

The LIC story

The Life Insurance Corporation of India deserves every bit of accolade that comes its way for serving as an institution of service (Op-Ed page, "LIC is more than a corporate powerhouse", May 3). While the role of lakhs of agents, including women, in developing the LIC into a behemoth is quite appreciable, one must not forget the countless number of employees who have, equally if not more, shaped the financial powerhouse. The nation owes a lot to Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru for his visionary role to ensure India's access to insurance. The LIC should recruit more youth.

J. ANANTHA PADMANABHAN,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

Fallen star

The sentencing of tennis ace Boris Becker to two-and-a-half years in prison in connection with his June 2017 bankruptcy is nothing short of a tragedy. Becker will be remembered as the unknown 17-year-old who took the tennis world by storm but was later bogged down by misadventures off the court. Becker's sad saga has, in a strange way, had something to do with different 'courts'.

R. SIVAKUMAR,
Chennai

Turkey's foreign policy reset

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has prompted a course correction from Ankara

TALMIZ AHMAD

President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, opening the Russia-Ukraine talks in Istanbul. • AFP

The war in Ukraine has encouraged Turkey's president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, to quickly reset relations with his West Asian neighbours so that he is better placed to cope with the serious geopolitical challenges emerging from the conflict.

This process of course-correction began when Israeli president Isaac Herzog visited Turkey on March 9 this year, ending a decade of strained ties, largely on account of Turkey's support for Palestinian interests. The bonhomie created by the visit has continued, with regular telephonic conversations between the leaders of the two countries and indications that Mr. Erdogan might visit Israel shortly.

The more dramatic Turkish outreach has been to Saudi Arabia, with Mr. Erdogan's visit on April 28-29. The visit was preceded by the special prosecutor in Turkey transferring the criminal case against 26 Saudi nationals for the murder of Jamal Khashoggi to the kingdom itself, thus closing this sensitive and divisive matter. Saudi Arabia reciprocated by removing the ban on the import of Turkish goods, which had reduced Turkish exports from $3.2 billion in 2019 to $200 million last year.

Before his departure, Mr. Erdogan spoke of a "joint will to start a new period of cooperation", and specifically mentioned energy, health, food security, finance and defence industry as areas to be pursued. During the visit, he had cordial meetings with King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and referred to the kingdom as Turkey's "friend and brother".

Besides boosting bilateral economic ties, regional commentators have referred to prospects for cooperation in promoting regional stability, particularly in matters relating to Syria, Iraq, Egypt and the east Mediterranean.

Turkey's strategic autonomy

A NATO member since 1952, Turkey, under President Erdogan aspires, as Graham Fuller has said, "to a broad regional leadership, unbeholden to any single country or power". Convinced that the U.S. had some hand in the attempted coup against him in July 2016, Mr. Erdogan moved closer to Russia and, contrary to NATO rules, even purchased the Russian S-400 missile defence system. Its expulsion from the NATO project to develop the F-35 fighter aircraft has encouraged even greater affinity with Russia.

Russia today provides 52% of Turkey's gas imports, 65% of its grain requirements, and sends seven million tourists annually who make a significant contribution to the Turkish GDP. Russia is also constructing a nuclear power station that in 2030 will meet 30% of Turkey's energy needs. Bilateral trade last year was $30 billion.

The two countries are also bonded by the 930-km TurkStream gas pipeline that bypasses Ukraine and links the two countries through the Black Sea.

Turkey has also built close ties with Ukraine. The latter provides nearly 15% of Turkey's grain imports and also sends annually a million tourists to the country. In early February 2022, the two countries entered into a free trade agreement and a defence cooperation agreement. The latter provides for the supply and joint production of Turkey's lethal Bayraktar TB2 unmanned drones which have boosted Ukraine's fighting capabilities in the ongoing conflict with Russia.

On March 29, Turkey hosted the second round of Russia-Ukraine peace talks in Istanbul, amidst some hints of progress at that time. Peace talks have halted since then; recent reports indicate that the western allies are not keen on a quick end to the conflict. At the same time, western nations are pursuing efforts to pull Turkey more deeply into their alliance.

So far, Turkey has remained committed to strategic autonomy. It has described the Ukraine conflict as a "war" and, in terms of the Montreux Convention of 1936, the Bosporus and Dardanelles Straits have been closed for naval shipping. Mr. Erdogan has described the war as "unacceptable", while Turkey's official media has criticised the Russian attack. Turkey also co-sponsored the UN General Assembly resolution that "deplored" the Russian invasion. However, Turkey has refused to join its western allies in imposing economic sanctions on Russia, nor has it closed its airspace to Russian traffic. It has also not sent any fresh arms shipments to Ukraine.

Regional geopolitics

The sinking of the Russian Black Sea fleet flagship, Moskva, on 14 April, possibly through missile attacks from Ukraine, has highlighted the strategic significance of the Black Sea. Through its Black Sea fleet, Russia is anxious to project power in the Mediterranean – hence the expansion and modernisation of its bases in the Crimea, Tartous and Hmeimim in Syria, and the consolidation of its military presence in Libya.

These Russian concerns and ambitions impinge on Turkey's interests. Hence, not surprisingly, they have been on opposite sides over the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute, when in 2020 Turkey backed Azerbaijan against Armenia, a Russian ally. Turkey has also opposed Russia's occupation of Crimea in 2014 on the ground that Russian control over Crimea and the upgradation of Russian naval capabilities will tilt the maritime balance of power in favour of the latter.

In response, Turkey has enhanced its naval prowess in these waters – in April this year, the "Blue Homeland" naval exercises took place in the Black, Aegean and Mediterranean Seas, involving 122 ships, 41 aircraft and 12,000 personnel. During these war games, Mr. Erdogan pledged to make Turkey "the most powerful naval force in the region".

Russia's plan in the Ukraine war to take full control of the Donbas region in east Ukraine and the Ukrainian coast on the Black Sea, and then take over the Transnistria region on the Ukraine-Moldova border – taken together, this would significantly expand Russian influence and revive the traditional Russian-Ottoman rivalry in the region, when the Ottomans had been backed by western allies, Britain and France.

Turkey's NATO allies hope that, faced with the challenge of an expansionist Russia, Turkey would return as a compliant member of the trans-Atlantic alliance.

But this seems unlikely. Turkey remains uncomfortable with periodic western criticisms of Mr. Erdogan's authoritarian ways. Turkish public opinion is also largely anti-West. In a survey in January 2022, 39.4% of those polled favoured closer ties with China and Russia, while 37.5% favoured closer relations with the U.S. and the EU; a year earlier, the two figures were, respectively, 27.6% and 40.9%.

Again, in geopolitical terms, Turkey sees the need to work closely with Russia to manage its crucial interests in Central and West Asia, the Caucasus and Afghanistan.

As the war continues and there are increasing domestic and regional pressures on Mr. Erdogan, the Turkish leader will need to depend on his substantial capacity as a crisis manager to take his country through these stormy times.

Talmiz Ahmad is a former diplomat

Joblessness on the rise in India

India is in the throes of a widening joblessness crisis and misinformation does not help

SANTOSH MEHROTRA

After many years of refusing to recognise there is a jobs crisis in India, the government of India, faced with relentless data to the contrary, has now resorted to misinformation. Scholars associated with the government have contributed to this effort. Two pieces – "Here's why it's V not K", March 3, 2022 in *The Times of India* and "A hazy picture on employment in India", February 1, 2022 in *The Hindu* are cases in point and are examined here. Regrettably, both pieces show an inadequacy in understanding the jobs situation.

As compared to the 8% per annum GDP growth in the period 200414, and 7.5 million new non-farm jobs created each year over 2005 to 2012 (NSO's employment-unemployment survey), the number of new nonfarm jobs generated between 20132019 was only 2.9 million, when at least 5 million were joining the labour force annually (NSO's Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)). The NSO itself states clearly that the two surveys provide comparable data; the claim that those two surveys are not comparable is not correct.

Unpaid family labour

A claim is made that between 2017-18 and 2019-20, the worker participation rate (WPR) and labour force participation rate (LFPR) was rising, showing improvement in the labour market. The next question is: how come these rates were rising, exactly when the economy was slowing down sharply from 2017 to 2020? The reality is that this rise in WPR and LFPR is misleading. It was caused mostly by increasing unpaid family labour, mostly by women.

The claim that manufacturing employment increased between 2017-18 and 2019-20 by 1.8 million is correct (based on PLFS). What this ignores is that between 2011-12 and 2017-18, manufacturing employment fell in absolute terms by 3 million, so a recovery is hardly any consolation. Manufacturing as a share of GDP fell from 17% in 2016 to 15%, then 13% in 2020, despite 'Make in India'.

Meanwhile, another argument offered is that GDP in FY22 "could not have returned to pre-COVID FY20 level without workers returning to work and MSMEs recovering too". Clearly, this fails to recognise that organised economic activity could recover without a corresponding increase in unorganised activities, thus cancelling each other out, and still leave the jobless without work, or even less work. Second, a fall in urban unemployment after July 2020 to January-March 2021 has now been reversed, with urban unemployment rate rising in April-June 2021 back to mid-2020 level, and labour force participation falling again. This is a K-shaped recovery.

In any case, the authors provide no evidence that MSMEs, that provide most of the non-farm employment, have recovered to pre-COVID levels. Meanwhile, here is the evidence. The Consortium of Indian Association (CIA) conducted a survey of over 81,000 micro businesses across Indian in June 2021, two months after the second wave was over. Of them 59% reduced their staff compared to pre-COVID levels; 88% respondents had not availed of any government stimulus packages; 28% reported they were unable to get payment dues from their customers from private or government; 64% reported banks were not giving loans.

Farm employment

In any case, the recovery of urban employment till March 2021 clearly ignores that urban employment barely captures a third of total employment. Besides, agriculture output may have performed well during COVID, and free rations may have alleviated acute distress. This completely ignores that between 2019 and 2020, the absolute number of workers in agriculture increased from 200 million to 232 million, depressing rural wages – a reversal of the absolute fall in farm employment of 37 million between 2005-2012, when non-farm jobs were growing 7.5 million annually, real wages were rising, and number of poor falling. Rising farm employment is a reversal of the structural change underway until 2014.

Finally, another dubious argument is offered to supplement the claim that organised formal employment is rising, because new registration in employment provident fund rose in the last two years. One limitation of EPFO-based payroll data is the absence of data on unique existing contributors. Employees join, leave and then rejoin leading to continuous revisions in EPFO enrolment.

There has been a massive increase in joblessness of at least 10 million due to COVID-19, on top of the 30 million already unemployed in 2019. This happened while the CMIE is reporting the employment rate has fallen from nearly 43% in 2016 to 37% in just four years. Poverty had already increased during pre-COVID times, and increased further post-COVID by all estimates.

Santosh Mehrotra is Research Fellow, IZA Institute of Labour Economics, Germany

STATE OF PLAY

Tamil Nadu aiding Sri Lanka

The State's proposal to send relief material can help build closer ties between the two nations

T. RAMAKRISHNAN

The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) government, by securing the consent of the Central government for the proposal mooted through a resolution of the Tamil Nadu Assembly to provide humanitarian aid to Sri Lanka, has deftly managed the issue.

The nod from the Centre was communicated by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in his letter on May 1 to Chief Minister M.K Stalin.

On April 29, the House adopted unanimously the motion to have relief material, worth ₹123 crore, supplied to the people of the island-nation, which is reeling under an unprecedented economic crisis. Significantly, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), the principal Opposition party, backed the resolution which had proposed the supply of 40,000 tonnes of rice (valued at ₹80 crore), 137 life-saving drugs (₹28 crore) and 500 tonnes of milk powder for children (₹15 crore).

The resolution marked a nuanced shift in the stand of the DMK government, which completes one year in office on May 6, from what it stated in the memorandum submitted by Mr. Stalin to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 31. Originally, the request was for a nod to the State government to supply essential commodities and life-saving drugs to Sri Lankan Tamils in northern and eastern provinces of Sri Lanka and in Colombo, apart from those working in the plantation sector.

As pointed out by Mr. Stalin in the Assembly at the time of passing the resolution, several Tamil leaders and bodies in Sri Lanka had also appealed to him to not discriminate against the people of other ethnic groups as everyone was suffering from the economic crisis.

After the 1983 Black July anti-Tamil pogrom, Tamil Nadu had, on a number of occasions, sent relief material to Sri Lanka. The services of the Red Cross Society had also been tapped. Of course, the most sensational episode took place in June 1987 when Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister and M.G. Ramachandran was the Chief Minister.

The beginning of 1987 saw the resumption of hostilities between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and the Sri Lankan forces. On May 26, 1987, the latter began what was called the Vadamarachchi campaign or "Operation Liberation." These events had cumulatively created a humanitarian crisis in the form of shortage of food and other essential commodities for people of Jaffna, who, to quote the then India's High Commissioner J.N. Dixit in his memoirs, *Assignment Colombo*, "suffered extreme hardship due to the economic blockade imposed against the [northern] province since January 1987." It was then that the Central government had decided to send essential commodities, weighing 950 tonnes, through a convoy of 19 fishing boats, apart from a boat carrying media persons and representatives of the Red Cross. The convoy, which left Rameswaram on June 3 for Jaffna, was stopped by the Sri Lankan navy off Katchatheevu. The next day was the day of "Operation Poomalai" (garland of flowers). Indian Air Force's five AN-32 aircraft, accompanied by four mirage fighters, dropped 22 tonnes of relief material over Jaffna. This event changed India's role from that of a mediator to a direct participant in the resolution of the Tamil question. What followed later, as they say, is history.

Tamil Nadu's present initiative is aimed at helping those who are in distress, regardless of ethnicity. It is hoped that the move can even pave the way for building closer ties between the people of India and Sri Lanka.

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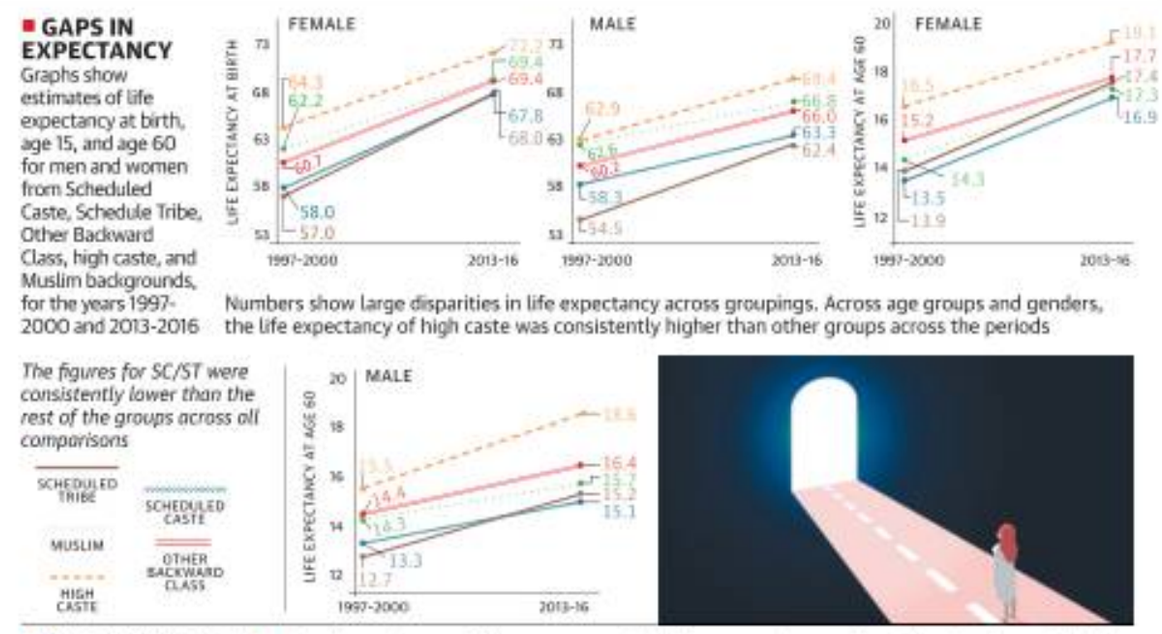
DATA POINT

Disparities in life expectancy

Using life expectancy data from two rounds of the National Family and Health Survey, a recent research paper shows that a wide gulf exists between high caste Hindu men/women and individuals from the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other minority communities. While between 1997-2000 and 2013-16, the two periods considered for comparison, the life expectancy of all individuals has improved, the gap between the high caste and SC/ST continued to remain at a similar rate. Moreover, within the caste groupings, urban individuals have a higher life expectancy than their rural counterparts. And these disparities remained in both periods considered.



SOURCE: "LARGE AND PERSISTENT LIFE EXPECTANCY DISPARITIES BETWEEN INDIA'S SOCIAL GROUPS", AASHISH GUPTA AND NIKHIL SUDHARSANAN
LINK: HTTPS://BIT.LY/3V2BEOF

The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 4, 1972

Mysore's stand on border dispute

Bangalore, May 3: The Minister in-charge of border affairs in Mysore, Mr. K. H. Patil said here to-day that there was no question of the State deviating from its stand in regard to the Mysore-Maharashtra (and Kerala) border dispute. This, at any rate, was the position "uptil now", he said. Mr. Patil, who was replying to questions by pressmen in recent developments on the border issue, said that not only himself but the entire Mysore State "stood by the Mahajan Commission report". The (previous) State Assembly had passed a resolution to that effect, he said, and asked: "How can I go against the resolution of the Assembly?" Pressmen had drawn his attention to reports that the Centre had revived its original proposal to bifurcate Belgaum as a solution to the Mysore-Maharashtra border dispute and that K. C. Pant, Union Minister of State for Home, had sounded the Chief Minister on that point during his recent visit to Bangalore. Mr. Patil denied knowledge of the suggestion for bifurcation of Belgaum and said that he was not aware of what discussions the Union Minister had with the Mysore Chief Minister. When Parliament was seized of the matter, what comment could he make on the border issue, he asked.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 4, 1922

Effect of proposed amendment

Under present conditions, a European has the right to claim to be tried by his own countrymen either in the shape of trial before an European Magistrate or before a jury more than half of which is composed of his own countrymen and has the right of appeal to the High Courts in all cases. Under the amended procedure, he could be tried before an Indian Magistrate with right of appeal to a Sessions Court and finally the High Court and in cases of jury trial, he would be tried before a jury composed of five Europeans and four Indians. To test the application of this proposal, assume the case of an European on a limited salary wrongfully charged with assault at a time of strong racial excitement. He is charged before an Indian Magistrate who, being convinced of his innocence, acquits him. The results of the Magistrate living among the disaffected portion of the population requires little imagination for they will embrace in all probability the terrors of social boycott and persecution.

FROM PAGE ONE

April exports cross $38 billion, deficit widens

Engineering goods continued to see an healthy uptick in exports, with outbound shipments up 15.4% to touch $9.2 billion.

Readymade garments exports jumped 16.4% from April 2021 to hit $1.5 billion, but were 13.2% lower than March 2022. Similarly, organic chemicals exports were up 26.7% year-on-year, but fell 8.1% month-on-month to a little over $2.5 billion.

Drugs and pharmaceuticals, now India's fifth-largest exporting sector, saw a far sharper sequential decline in exports of 17.8% to $1.96 billion, from $2.39 billion in March 2022. On a year-on-year basis too, the sector's growth rate eased to 3.93%, from March's 4.2% pace.

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, who is steering the process to set a higher export target for this fiscal, had said last month that the Ministry was working on including the pharma sector into the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP) export incentive scheme. Exports of chemicals and iron and steel, have also been left out of the scheme introduced last year.

While the signing of free trade pacts with the UAE and Australia is expected to offer new opportunities even as global trade growth is expected to slow down in the wake of the conflict in Europe, exporters have sought government attention to resolve critical operational concerns.

"High logistics costs and the unprecedented surge in raw material prices are hurting all sectors," pointed out Engineering Exports Promotion Council chief Mahesh Desai. "The government is well aware of the issues facing the sector and we hope policy actions would be taken to minimise the impact," he added.

SC not to decide on deferred political entry of officials

Petition seeks direction to legislature to frame law imposing a cooling-off period

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Legislators, not judges, have to determine whether a cooling-off period is required for government officials before they join politics and contest elections after retirement.

This was stated by a Bench of Justices Indira Banerjee and A.S. Bopanna while replying to a writ petition seeking a direction to the legislature to frame a law imposing a cooling-off period for retired bureaucrats with political ambitions.

The petitioner, Vivek Krishna, said the need to give time to cool off after retirement was necessary owing to a high probability that civil servants, while in service, may do favours for certain parties with an eye on a political future or a high position.

> There can be no doubt that civil servants should maintain the highest ethical standards of integrity and honesty, political neutrality, fairness and impartiality in the discharge of duties
> SUPREME COURT

The Bench, in a recent four-page order, categorically said that civil servants would be liable for stringent action in case of any such breach in ethical standards under the All India Services (Conduct) Rules of 1968.

Work ethic

"There can be no doubt that civil servants should maintain the highest ethical standards of integrity and honesty, political neutrality, fairness and impartiality in the discharge of duties," the court observed.

It said that for civil servants, "courtesy, accountability and transparency, integrity, impartiality, neutrality, transparency and honesty are non-negotiable".

However, the Bench stated that the court could not make a law to introduce a cooling-off period for civil servants. The question whether to make such a law or not was best left to the legislature.

Dismissing the petition, the court observed that the allegations made in it of bureaucrats deviating from strict norms of political neutrality with a view to obtaining party ticket to contest elections were "vague, devoid of particulars and unsupported by any materials which could justify intervention of this court".

No solid data

"No particulars have been given of the number and/or percentage of erstwhile bureaucrats, who have contested elections on the ticket of a political party, not to speak of any act on their part, prior to their retirement, in deviation of the standards required of bureaucrats," it noted.

The court refused to intervene in the petition, saying it was for the appropriate authorities to decide whether there should be any rules/guidelines for bureaucrats contesting polls.

Govt. seeks more time in sedition law case

Final hearing, disposal set for May 5

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union government has sought more time to file its reply to petitions in the Supreme Court challenging the constitutionality of the law on sedition.

The case is scheduled for hearing before a Bench led by the Chief Justice of India (CJI).

In the previous hearing on April 27, the government agreed to file its reply on April 30 or May 1. However, instead of an affidavit, it filed an application saying it needed more time.

In fact, the government said the affidavit containing its reply was ready but had to be cleared by the competent authority.

No adjournments

The Bench posted the case for May 5 for final hearing and disposal. The court had made it clear that it would not entertain any further adjournments.

Several petitions have been filed, one lately by senior journalists like Patricia Mukhim and Anuradha Bhasin highlighting the freedom of the Press, cartoonist Aseem Trivedi, and one separately by the Editors Guild of India, NGO Common Cause, former Minister Arun Shourie and prominent citizens like retired Major General S.G. Vombatkere, among others challenging the colonial law.

Crushing liberties

Last year, the CJI himself voiced what could be an unprecedented judicial criticism of the way the sedition law was used by the government to crush liberties.

Chief Justice Ramana had said sedition or Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code was prone to misuse by the government.

FIR against Raj Thackeray, police out in strength

"If one hears the masjids playing the loudspeakers, the citizens should dial 100 and lodge a complaint. One must complain every day," he said.

Sources said a flurry of meetings took place in Mumbai with State Home Minister Dilip Walse-Patil discussing the issue with Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray. Senior leaders of the Congress too held talks with the Chief Minister and Mr. Walse-Patil, demanding appropriate action to prevent communal clashes in the State.

The police had granted permission to Mr. Thackeray's May 1 event with more than 15 caveats, chief among them being he would not make provocative speeches nor attempt to stoke communal tensions.

Sources said the report by the Aurangabad police chief to the DGP pointed out no fewer than 12 violations of the pre-address conditions.

The FIR under Sections 116 and 117 (abetment to an offence) and 153 (provocation with intent to cause riot) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Sections of the Maharashtra Police Act was lodged by the Aurangabad City Chowk police against Mr. Thackeray and organisers of the MNS rally in Aurangabad.

The police also issued notices to MNS workers across the State. Preventive action was taken against more than 15,000 people under various sections of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and the Maharashtra Police Act.

In Mumbai, notices were issued under the Section 149 of the CrPC to at least 100 people, including MNS leaders Nitin Sardesai and Bala Nandgaokar.

Several MNS office-bearers, who were planning to play Hanuman Chalisa on loudspeaker on May 4, were taken into preventive custody in a number of places including Mumbai city. In Pune, the police pressure on the MNS was palpable with security personnel cracking down on the planned *'maha arati'* on Wednesday.

Defiant MNS activists warned that if Mr. Thackeray was arrested, then serious disorder would erupt across the State.

Home Ministry seeks regular prison checks

Background of NGOs involved with prison activities may be verified on periodic basis, it tells States

VIJAITA SINGH
S. VIJAY KUMAR
NEW DELHI/CHENNAI

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has asked the prison authorities in the States to maintain "appropriate oversight" on "literature available in prison libraries to ensure that inmates are not influenced negatively."

In a letter sent to the Principal Secretary (Home) and the Director General of Prisons of all States on May 2, the MHA said that "background of NGOs involved with prison activities may be verified on periodic basis".

"State Governments and prison authorities should take effective steps to prevent prisons from becoming breeding ground for anti-national activities, for which regular inspection of prisons may be conducted," the letter stated. The inmates may also be motivated to leave the life of crime and become responsible citizens of the nation.

Better path: Women prisoners in Thane Jail at a book donation programme. • KISTU FERNANDES

Use of mobile phones

The Ministry has called for deploying effective jamming solutions and advanced technology to restrict the illegal access/use of mobile phones by inmates.

In April, a court in Mumbai was informed that civil rights campaigner Gautam Navlakha, arrested by the National Investigation Agency for his alleged role in the Bhima Koregaon caste violence case and lodged in the Taloja central jail, was denied a book written by famous author and humorist P.G. Wodehouse, citing "security risk."

In 2021, trade unionist and human rights campaigner Sudha Bhardwaj, another accused in the Bhima Koregaon case, had to move court after the prison authorities removed the book, *The Empire of Cotton*, by Sten Backert from a parcel sent by her lawyer.

Manual devised

The MHA said that "despite constant follow-ups," many States were yet to confirm the status of the adoption of the Model Prison Manual, 2016, in their jurisdictions. According to sources in the Tamil Nadu prison department, the MHA stated that the manual was devised on the basis of various guiding principles and directions of the Supreme Court and Parliamentary Standing Committees on efficient prison administration.

The MHA noted that "First-time offenders and repeat offenders may be segregated and should be housed in separate wards/prison complex with a view to ensuring that habitual offenders are not able to negatively influence the first-time offenders."

The Ministry suggested that medical facilities in jail hospitals and dispensary may be strengthened and improved in such a manner that reduces the requirement of referral of inmates outside the prison complex.

"Psychological assessment of inmates by competent medical professionals may be encouraged to reduce depression in prison inmates and provide them with a positive outlook in life," it said.

Minor seeks permission to donate liver

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court recently directed the Maharashtra government to expeditiously decide on a plea by a minor daughter to donate her liver to her ailing father.

A Division Bench was hearing a petition filed by a teenager through her mother seeking permission to donate her liver to her father who is bedridden. The minor is 16 years, two months and 13 days old and her father has been diagnosed with liver cirrhosis.

On April 25, the daughter filed an application seeking approval of the Directorate of Medical Education and Research for transplanting her liver to her father.

U.S. Supreme Court to 'annul' abortion right

It will give free rein to Republican-controlled States which are already leading an all-out push to curtail the procedure.

The Democrats stand broadly united in support of abortion rights, and rallied immediately in defence of the watershed 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision. While he cautioned that the draft had not been verified, Mr. Biden said U.S. voters would have to step up in defence of the right if the Supreme Court moved ahead.

Crowds of protesters from both camps descended on the Supreme Court building in Washington in the wake of Monday's leak by *Politico*. On Tuesday morning, two opposing groups – small but vocal – stood shouting chants at each other, with anti-abortion activists yelling "Abortion is violence. Abortion is oppression" and "Hey Hey Ho Ho *Roe v. Wade* is going to go!"

In *Roe v. Wade*, the nation's highest court held that access to abortion is a constitutional right.

Sweet tidings

Harmonious ties: People offering sweets to security personnel after Id prayers at the riot-hit Jahangirpuri in New Delhi on Tuesday morning. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Indigenous artillery gun passes validation trials

It met the needs of the Army: official

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

The indigenous Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS) developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) jointly with the private industry crossed a milestone this week by successfully completing the validation trials towards meeting the specifications of the Army.

The week-long Preliminary Service Quality Requirements (PSQR) validation retrials were conducted at the Pokhran field firing ranges from April 26 to May 2.

Stating that there are very stringent specifications for accuracy consistency, the officials said the performance during trials were well within the specifications. "Guns of both companies performed well. The successful re-validation trials pave the way for induction of the ATAGS into service," the official said.

Most accurate gun

The ATAGS is a 155mm, 52-calibre heavy artillery gun jointly developed by Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), the Pune-based laboratory of DRDO, in partnership with Bharat Forge and Tata Group.

In August 2018, the Defence Acquisition Council had accorded approval for the purchase of 150 of these guns at an approximate cost of ₹3,365 crore which would be split between the two companies. The Army has a requirement of 1,580 artillery guns in this category.

The ATAGS has demonstrated a range of over 45 km, and an official termed it as the "most consistent and accurate gun in the world".

Two men lynched on suspicion of killing cow

The complainant, Brajesh Batti, who was injured, said the mob was hitting the victims with sticks when he arrived at the spot, and he, too, was assaulted.

Congress MLA Kakodia, who has been sitting on a *dharna* in protest against the incident, alleged that the attackers were Bajrang Dal members and called for a ban on the right-wing outfit. He said the kin of the victims should be given ₹1 crore each and government jobs.

The Congress has demanded a high-level inquiry and swift action against the culprits.

Congress State president Kamal Nath tweeted, "I demand from the government that strict action be taken against the culprits by announcing a high-level inquiry into this incident. All possible help should be given to the families of the victims and arrangements for treatment of the injured man at government expense."

Mr. Nath said the kin of the deceased and local residents had claimed that the Bajrang Dal was involved in the incident.

Lokpal to get a new office at World Trade Centre building

On March 19, 2019, Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghosh was appointed as India's first Lokpal along with eight other members

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

Four years after the country's first anti-corruption ombudsman to investigate complaints against public functionaries, including the Prime Minister, was appointed and almost a decade after the Act was passed by Parliament, the Lokpal of India will finally move into a swanky office at the World Trade Centre in Nauroji Nagar of south Delhi.

Spread over an area of 59,504 square feet, the office comprising two floors, has been purchased for ₹254.88 crore, according to the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), the administrative Ministry for the Lokpal.

On March 19, 2019, Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghosh was appointed India's first Lokpal along with eight other members. The appointment itself was made five years after the Lokpal and Lokayukta Act was passed in 2013 to investigate cases of corruption against certain categories of public servants.

Before the BJP came to power in 2014, the appointment of Lokpal was one of its major poll planks.

According to the 2020-21 annual report of the Lokpal of India, in the beginning it functioned from a temporary office at the Ashok Hotel in Chanakyapuri.

"Later, the Department of Legal Affairs provided a part of the erstwhile ICADR Building in Vasant Kunj Institutional Area, Phase- II, New Delhi, on rent. The office of the Lokpal of India commenced its operations from the new office building with effect from 14 February, 2020. However, this office space is not sufficient for the proper functioning of the office and efforts are, therefore, being made to have a permanent office of the Lokpal of India," the report said.

Non-availability of land

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs was approached for providing a suitable piece of land for the construction of a permanent office and "they have informed that no suitable land is available for allotment." Due to non-availability of land, the office of Lokpal proposed to procure built-up office space from the National Buildings Construction Corporation (India) Limited at the World Trade Centre, Nauroji Nagar, it stated.

On March 25, a meeting of the Delegated Investment Board (DIB) "appraised and approved the proposal for acquisition of office space measuring 59,504 sq. ft. of super built area (44830 sq. ft. carpet area) comprising two floors at World Trade Centre, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi at a cost of ₹254.88 crore through the e-Auction mode from the NBCC," the DoPT's monthly achievement report for March said. The Lokpal can inquire into allegations of corruption against anyone who is or has been Prime Minister, or a Minister in the Union government, or a Member of Parliament, as well as officials of the Union government under Groups A, B, C and D.

The body also covers complaints against chairpersons, members, officers and directors of any board or autonomous body either established by an Act of Parliament and any society or trust or body that receives foreign contribution above ₹10 lakh.

India, Denmark to strengthen green strategic partnership

Focus to be on green hydrogen, renewable energy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COPENHAGEN

India and Denmark on Tuesday agreed to further strengthen the Green Strategic Partnership with a focus on green hydrogen, renewable energy and wastewater management.

"During our discussions, we reviewed the joint work plan for the Green Strategic Partnership. I am happy that significant progress has been made in various fields, especially in the areas of renewable energy, health, ports, shipping, circular economy and water management," Prime Minister Narendra Modi told reporters here after talks with his Danish counterpart, Mette Frederiksen.

A number of agreements covering sectors such as green shipping, animal husbandry and dairying, water management, energy, cultural exchange were inked after the bilateral talks.

In a joint statement issued here, the two Prime Ministers welcomed the intention of both countries to expand the existing cooperation in the field of water management to meet present and future demand through a holistic approach.

Good start: Narendra Modi is greeted by Mette Frederiksen upon his arrival in Copenhagen on Tuesday. • PTI

Diaspora meet

Later, in an interaction with Indians living in Denmark, Mr. Modi stated that India had no role in exploiting the planet, but was at the forefront in the efforts to save it.

"India has been able to fulfil its climate actions because, unlike others who put all the responsibility of saving the planet on multilateral organisations, we see it as a responsibility of each citizen to do their bit to save the world," Mr. Modi said.

India and Denmark also confirmed their continued collaboration in the field of antimicrobial resistance. India conveyed its acceptance of the Danish invitation to join the International Center for Antimicrobial Resistance Solutions (ICARS) as Mission Partner, the joint statement said.

Modi invokes FOMO to draw in investors

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COPENHAGEN

Invoking popular social media expression FOMO (fear of missing out) during his Denmark visit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said those not investing in India will certainly miss out.

Addressing the India-Denmark Business Forum, Modi said ongoing economic reforms have created investment opportunities in various sectors like green technology, cold chains, shipping and ports.

"These days the term FOMO or 'fear of missing out' is gaining traction on social media. Looking at India's reforms and investment opportunities, I can say that those who don't invest in our nation will certainly miss out," a tweet from the Prime Minister's Office quoted him as saying.

Communal violence hits Jodhpur, curfew imposed

5 policemen injured and tear gas used to disperse crowd

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JODHPUR/JAIPUR

Communal tensions gripped Jodhpur hours before Id-ul-Fitr on Tuesday, prompting the authorities to suspend mobile Internet services and impose a curfew in 10 police station limits of the city.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, who hails from the city, has appealed to the people to maintain peace and harmony.

Jodhpur's Deputy Commissioner of Police issued orders imposing a curfew till midnight on May 4 besides suspending mobile Internet services to check the spread of rumours. Tensions broke out past midnight over putting up of flags on the Jalori Gate Circle, which led to stone-throwing, in which five policemen were injured.

The situation was brought under control in the early hours of Tuesday with heavy deployment of police but tensions escalated again in the morning. Shops, vehicles and houses were pelted with stones near the Jalori Gate area.

Tense moments: Police baton-charge a protester after clashes broke out in Jodhpur on Tuesday. • PTI

Members of the minority community were installing Id flags and they put up a flag on a roundabout alongside the statue of freedom fighter Balmukund Bissa. This led to a confrontation as members of the other community alleged that a saffron flag, which they had put up there ahead of Parashuram Jayanti, had gone missing.

The issue snowballed into stone-throwing and clashes, officials said.

The police had to lob tear gas shells to disperse the mob.

Mr. Gehlot in a tweet urged people to maintain peace and called the incident unfortunate. "While respecting the tradition of love and brotherhood of Jodhpur, Marwar, I make an appeal to all parties to maintain peace and co-operate in restoring law and order," he said.

Mr. Gehlot also chaired a high-level meeting to review the situation. He asked Ministers Rajendra Yadav and Subhash Garg, and two officers to go to Jodhpur by helicopter.

He also directed officials to take stern action against those responsible for the violence.

Naqvi slams Gehlot over violence

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Law and order is in a precarious state in Rajasthan, Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said Tuesday, reacting to the communal violence in Jodhpur late on Monday.

Recalling the earlier communal clash at Karauli in the State on April 2, Mr. Naqvi said, "It is surprising that Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot keeps preaching peace to the entire country but is unable to maintain it in his own backyard."

Mr. Naqvi was speaking to presspersons during Id celebrations at his residence in Delhi.

Asked about the communal clashes in the Congress-ruled Rajasthan, Congress general secretary and chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said, "The BJP has initiated a hateful agenda in Rajasthan and other election-going States like Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Rajasthan. There will be no communal riots now in Uttar Pradesh or in Uttarakhand as elections are over."

Congress questions timing of LIC IPO

'Market conditions are unfavourable'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

On the eve of the mega initial public offering (IPO) of the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), the Congress on Tuesday questioned why the shares of the company were being "undervalued" and offered at throwaway prices.

Addressing a press conference, Congress general secretary Randeep Surjewala questioned the government for reducing the LIC valuation from ₹12 lakh crore-₹14 lakh crore in February to ₹6 lakh crore in just two months.

He said the government had set a target to raise ₹70,000 crore by selling 5% stake in the public sector undertaking (PSU), but had now reduced it to ₹21,000 crore and a 3.5% stake sale.

The Congress leader claimed that the LIC had 30 crore policyholders and its total assets were to the tune of ₹39,60,000 crore as of September 2021 and a stock portfolio of ₹52,000 crore. Further, the company's income from its investments was to the tune of ₹3.35 lakh crore in the April-September 2021 period. It employed 13.94 lakh persons (12.80 lakh agents and 1.14 lakh employees) through its 3,542 offices across the country, Mr. Surjewala said.

"Why is the government trying to sell LIC when domestic and global financial markets are in turmoil on account of the Russia-Ukraine war and a host of factors are leading to economic downturn?" he said.

"The Secretary in charge of public sector divestment has said that the government will not sell its stake in PSUs if market conditions are not favourable. Why is LIC's IPO an exception to this policy? India seeks answers," the Congress leader added.

Governor 'obstructed' Cabinet's move to release Perarivalan: T.N.

'No scope of making reference under Article 161 to President'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Tamil Nadu government did not mince words in a note to the Supreme Court on the A.G. Perarivalan case when it said the Governor "obstructed" the decision of the State Cabinet to release the convict and acted "*ultra vires*" the Constitution by referring his mercy to the President.

A.G. Perarivalan

The Supreme Court has already made it clear that it found nothing wrong in ordering the release of Perarivalan, considering that he has served over 30 years of his life sentence in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. A Bench led by Justice L. Nageswara Rao is scheduled to hear the case on May 4.

The note given by the State government, represented by senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi and advocate Joseph S. Aristotle, greatly bolsters the case in favour of Perarivalan's release.

"In the instant case, the Governor has not only obstructed the implementation of the decision of the Council of Ministers, which had the unanimous backing of the Tamil Nadu Legislature, but he also proceeded to refer the matter to the President for his consideration. This reference is completely *ultra vires* the Constitution. The Governor has no such power under the Constitution," the State government argued.

Distinct powers

The President and the Governor exercise two distinct powers under Articles 72 and 161, respectively. The former exercises his power under the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers at the Centre while the latter depends on the State Council of Ministers.

"There is no scope for making of a reference under Article 161 to the President... This would amount to rewriting the Constitution and introducing a role for the President and the Union Council of Ministers in Article 161," Tamil Nadu contended, adding that such a move would lead to destruction of democracy based on the Cabinet system.

Congress MLA Ashwin Kotwal joins the BJP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

In a huge setback to the Gujarat Congress ahead of the Assembly election, its senior tribal leader and three-time legislator Ashwin Kotwal has resigned from the party as well as from the Assembly. Mr. Kotwal has joined the BJP.

Mr. Kotwal submitted his resignation as a legislator to Assembly Speaker Nimaben Acharya on Tuesday. He then drove to the State BJP headquarters to join the ruling party along with his supporters.

Mr. Kotwal praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his leadership. "Even when I was a Congress MLA, PM Modi was in my heart. I was inspired by him," he said. Mr. Kotwal is a three-time MLA from ST reserved Khedbrahma Assembly seat in north Gujarat. He was earlier chief whip of the Opposition party in the Assembly.

War of words over Rahul's visit to nightclub

Congress comes to his defence

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday asserted that attending the wedding of a friend is not a crime, as its former president Rahul Gandhi's visit to Kathmandu led to a bitter war of words with the BJP.

As a video of Mr. Gandhi in a Kathmandu nightclub went viral on social media and was shared by Amit Malviya, head of the BJP's Information Technology (IT) cell, the Congress's chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala hit back.

"Rahul Gandhi went to a friendly country, Nepal, to participate in a marriage function of a friend who also happens to be a journalist. Last I checked, it has still not become a crime in this country to attend a marriage. Maybe after today, the BJP may decide it is illegal to attend a marriage and a crime to have friends," Mr. Surjewala said.

Mr. Malviya had tweeted, "Rahul Gandhi was at a nightclub when Mumbai was under siege. He is at a nightclub at a time when his party is exploding. Interestingly, soon after the Congress refused to outsource their presidency, hit jobs have begun on their Prime Ministerial candidate".

Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi called Mr. Gandhi a "full-time tourist and a part-time politician".

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF A.P. LIMITED
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Tender Notice (e-procurement): No. 01/2022-23, Dt: 02-05-2022

Bids through e-procurement are invited from the eligible bidders for **procurement of VCBs, Meters, Metering Sets, CTs, PTs, AB Switches, Line Materials, Conductors, Cables, Stay wire, PTRs, DTRs, winding wires, Transformer Oil, Battery Chargers, LAS and Hardwares etc.,**
For further details: **www.apeprocurement.gov.in**

CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER/P&MM

IN BRIEF

Politics of isolation is not right, warns Mamata

KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday said the current situation of the country was grim and the politics of isolation had to change. "The situation in the country is grim... The policy of divide and rule is not correct. The politics of isolation going on is also not correct," she said at a gathering after Id prayers here. There were some "people who create division among Hindus and Muslims", and in the days to come "we will have to fight against forces that divide the country", she said, noting that West Bengal presented an example of unity between communities.

Sonia reviews 'Chintan Shivir' preparations

NEW DELHI

Congress president Sonia Gandhi met with senior leaders on Tuesday to review the preparations for the three-day 'Chintan Shivir' (brainstorming session) that is scheduled between May 13 and 15 in Udaipur. Among those present were K.C. Venugopal, Ambika Soni, Randeep Surjewala and Mukul Wasnik. Mr. Venugopal is expected to go to Udaipur on Wednesday to take stock of the preparations on the ground.

Cuttack's Deputy Mayor gets notice for partial demolition of house

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
BHUBANESWAR

Months after being elected Deputy Mayor of Cuttack city, Damayanti Majhi, youngest person to occupy the post, has received notice for partial demolition of her house.

Demolition of the extension of her house was necessitated to make way for the construction of a drain in the slum where she along with her mother and two siblings live.

Ms. Majhi was elected as Deputy Mayor Cuttack while she was still a college student.

"A drain is to be constructed in the slum. Five or six houses have to be partially demolished. We have extended our house a bit which will be demolished. However, our home will stay intact," she said.

Ms. Majhi said none of the slum dwellers whose houses would be partially demolished had any objection to the Cuttack city administration's move.

Her parents, who were daily wage earners, had migrated from Keonjhar district to Cuttack city, in search of a livelihood 25 years ago. They had constructed a three-room house on government land. In 2017, tragedy struck when her father drowned in the Mahanadi.

A drain is to be constructed in the slum. Five or six houses have to be partially demolished

DAMAYANTI MAJHI
Cuttack's Deputy Mayor

Ms. Majhi said she had started supporting her family by taking tuition classes in the slum. While her mother is still a daily wager, the money earned by Ms. Majhi through tuition takes care of the education of her sister.

"I don't have any objection to partial demolition of my house. When a project is meant for greater societal cause, no one should protest against it," she said.

Cuttack Mayor Subash Singh had already said that Ms. Majhi's long years of experience of living in a slum would come in handy for planning slum development programme in Cuttack town.

Office of the Director General,
Medical Education and Training, Uttar Pradesh
6th Floor, Jawahar Bhawan, Ashok Marg, Lucknow (UP) -226001.

Email:- dgmededu@gmail.com Phone: 0522-2287653
website: www.dgme.up.gov.in Fax: 0522- 2288193

No:-ME-2/2022/959 Lucknow: Dated: 02 May, 2022

Advertisement For the Post of Principal

Applications are invited on prescribed format from Indian Nationals for the post of Principal (one post) for each Autonomous State Medical College, **Ayodhya, Shahjahanpur, Mirzapur, Basti and Etah** having the following educational qualifications and experience -

1- **Age:-** The candidate must have attained the minimum age of 50 years and maximum age of 62 years on the 01st July, 2022.

2- He shall be a person of eminent medical and administrative experience.

3- **Educational Qualifications:-**

"He shall possess the recognized postgraduate medical qualification and other academic qualifications from a recognized institution with a minimum of ten years' teaching experience as Professor/Associate Professor/Reader in a medical College/Institutes, out of which at least five years should be as Professor in a department.

Preference for this appointment will be given to the Head of the Department of medical college/ Institute."

4- **Pay Scale: -**

For the post of Principal the scale of pay would be Academic Level -14, Entry pay- Rs. 1,44,200/- which has been fixed for principal of Government Medical Colleges as pay and allowances etc by The State Government.

5- **Application Fee:-**

A demand draft of Rs. 1000/- (Rs. One thousand only) payable in favour of **"Director General Medical Education and Training, U.P. Lucknow"** payable at Lucknow is mandatory as application fee.

6- If applying for more than one place candidate should send seprate application for each Autonomous State Medical College with requisite document & Bank Demand Draft.

Interested Candidates are invited to send their application on prescribed format (downloadable from www.dgme.up.gov.in) along with certificates **latest by 05:00 pm on 03-06-2022,** to the Office of Director General, Medical Education and Training, U.P. Lucknow by **registered / speed** post only.

Applications received after due date and time and incomplete applications would not be taken into consideration.

Ro No 175751 , Ro Date 2/5/22
website- www.upgov.nic.in **Director General**

INDIAN NATIONAL CENTRE FOR OCEAN INFORMATION SERVICES (INCOIS)
An Autonomous body under Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Govt. of India, Hyderabad

Advt. No. INCOIS/RMT/02/2022

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for recruitment of 06 (SIX) position of **RESEARCH ASSOCIATE** initially for a period of 24 months or till the project is over, whichever is earlier on a temporary contractual basis in the project entitled "Development of Climate Change Advisory Services" under the "Deep Ocean Mission".

Sl.No.	Category	No. of positions	Age limit (as on date of closure of application)
1	RESEARCH ASSOCIATE	06 No.	35 years

Further details about the position, eligibility, academic qualifications, responsibilities, experience, application procedure and other general conditions are available at INCOIS website at https://incois.gov.in/jobs/index.jsp
Last date for submission of Online application is May 31, 2022.

Director, INCOIS

JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Indira Circle, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur-302004

No.: JDA/EE (Pr-II)/2022-23/D-48 Date : 02.05.2022

NOTICE INVITING BID
NIB NO.: EE (Project-II)/2022-23

Online Bids are invited from **6.00 PM** of **11.05.2022** onwards upto **6.00 PM** of **17.06.2022** for **"Construction of Guest House at Rajasthan International Centre Campus, Jhalana Doongri, Jaipur (Phase-I) on Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC) basis"** estimated cost of **Rs. 38.40 Cr.** The last date for applying bid and making online payment on JDA portal is upto **6.00 PM** of **17.06.2022.** Details may be seen in the Bidding Document at our office or the State Public Procurement Portal website **www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** and **www.jda.urban.rajasthan.gov.in**

To participate in the bid, bidder has to be :-

1. Registered on JDA website **www.jda.urban.rajasthan.gov.in** for participating in the Bid, the Bidder has to apply for the Bid and pay the Bidding Document Fee, RISL Processing Fee and Bid Security Deposit online only.
2. Registered on e-Procurement Portal of Government of Rajasthan **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** for online e-Bid submission.

Raj. Samwad/C/2022-23/1268 **Executive Engineer (Project-II)**

GUJARAT METRO RAIL CORPORATION (GMRC) LIMITED
(SPV of Govt. of India and Govt. of Gujarat)
Block No.1, First Floor, Karmayogi Bhavan, Sector 10/A, Gandhinagar: 382010, Gujarat. (CIN): U60200GJ2010SGC059407

IFB No.: GMRC/Track-2/Surat/Ph-1/2022
Date: 04.05.2022

Bids are invited from reputed and experienced Contractor for the following tender :

Tender Name	Tender Fees
"Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Ballastless Track from Bhesan to Saroli in Elevated Section Including Connecting Lines to Depot along with Ballasted / Ballastless / Embedded Standard Gauge Track For Corridor-II, Surat Metro Rail Project, Phase 1"	INR 25,000/-

Interested bidders are requested to visit **https://gmrc.nprocure.com, www.gujaratmetrorail.com and http://afd.dgmarket.com** for eligibility criteria, applying/ downloading the Bid document. **Last date and time for Bid Submissions is 15:00 Hrs. on 18.06.2022**
Any alterations in Eligibility Criteria cum Qualification Requirements, and terms of the Tender Document, or any amendment to the Tender Document, etc, will be uploaded on **https://gmrc.nprocure.com** and GMRC's Website **www.gujaratmetrorail.com** without any obligation or press notification or other proclamation.

Sd/-
Managing Director, GMRC, Gandhinagar

First case of XE variant detected

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India has one confirmed case of the XE variant of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus, the Indian SARS-CoV2 Genomics Sequencing Consortium (INSACOG) said in a bulletin for April 25, which was released on Tuesday.

However, the location of this variant has not been identified.

"As compared to the previous week, 12 States have shown an increase in cases, while 19 states have shown a decline," the bulletin said.

No clusters yet

It said the suspected recombinant sequences were undergoing further analysis.

"BA.2.10 and BA.2.12 are BA.2 sub-lineages that have been detected and many old BA.2 sequences have been reclassified into these new sub-lineages. So far these sub-lineages are not reported to be associated with increased severity of disease," the bulletin added.

The statement from INSACOG said that there are no reports of XE clusters across India as yet.

Recorded deaths rose to 81 lakh in 2020 from 76 lakh in 2019

NITI member says these are absolute, correct numbers, not modelled ones

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

The number of registered deaths increased from 76.4 lakh in 2019 to 81.2 lakh in 2020 and out of the total registered deaths, the share of men and women is 60.2% and 39.8%, respectively, noted a report on "Vital statistics of India based on the civil registration system" for 2020.

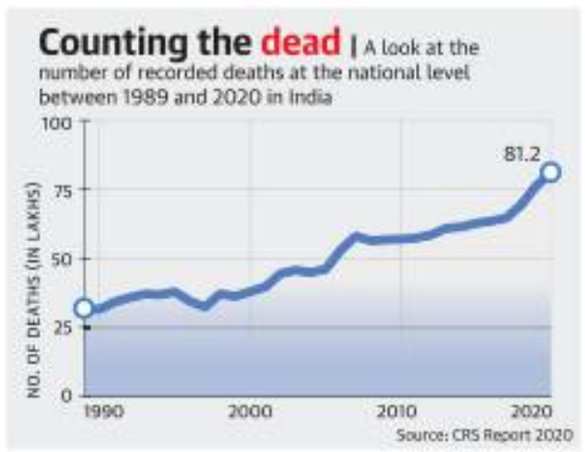
The report added that based on information provided from 34 States and Union Territories, the share of institutional deaths in total registered deaths is 28%.

"India faced its first COVID wave during 2020 and this information released through the report is vital in terms of giving India and all agencies which wants to use these figures for analysis on how health systems need to be best worked with to minimise human tragedy during a pandemic," said V.K. Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog, on Tuesday.

WHO estimate

The World Health Organization (WHO) is set to release an estimate of COVID deaths, from across the world, during the pandemic period and indicates excess deaths in India. The Indian government responded to this earlier saying that it has objection to the report centred on the "methodology adopted for the same".

"The numbers presented here in this report are the absolute, correct numbers. These are not modelled numbers based on assumptions. We have found through the pandemic that assumptions and models don't really work. In fact this report presents us with numbers from every district, male-female break up and age-wise break up of the deaths. Of course all the deaths reported are not COVID deaths. The COVID deaths have been systematically collected and released by the Health Ministry regularly," he said.



Compulsory registration

He added that the numbers collected and released through this system came from the continuous, permanent, compulsory and universal recording of the vital events (births, deaths, stillbirths).The Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 (Act No. 18 of 1969) provides for the compulsory registration of births and deaths.

"Ideally, an annual report on vital statistics containing more detailed information should have been brought out. However, due to limited availability of information contained in the annual reports of some of the States, the report for the year 2020 containing key information of events pertaining to the time period 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020 has been brought out for the convenience of users," the report says.

Rise in COVID-19 cases

Dr. Paul, speaking about the rise in COVID-19 cases again in the country, said that the pandemic was not over yet.

"We have a large population that has the protective cover of a vaccine and we have to remember to use the mask. We still don't know everything about the nature and behaviour of the virus hence precaution continues to be our best weapon," he said.

India is official country of honour at Cannes

Pratidwandi, *Thamp* to be screened

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Satyajit Ray

India will be the official country of honour at the Cannes Film Market scheduled from May 17 to 25.

As the country celebrates its 75th year of Independence, coinciding with film festival's 75th anniversary, a brand new restoration of cinema legend Satyajit Ray's movie *Pratidwandi* will be presented in an exclusive screening at the movie gala.

According to a press release issued by the festival, *Pratidwandi* has been restored under the National Film Heritage Mission, a project undertaken by the Union Information and Broadcasting Ministry.

The restoration was carried out by Prime Focus Technologies, Mumbai, and the grading was supervised by cinematographer Sudeep Chatterjee.

The restored version is presented by the National Film Archive of India (NFDC).

The film *Thamp* (The Circus Tent), a 1978 Aravindan directorial, will have its Restoration World Premiere at the festival.

Hollywood classic *Singin' in the Rain*, will be presented in a brand new 4K restoration. The 1952 Gene Kelly and Stanley Donen film, which details the transition from silent film to talkies, will have its screening on the Boulevard de la Croisette.

Bollywood star Deepika Padukone has already been announced as a member of the competition jury of the upcoming edition of the festival along with prestigious names such as actor-filmmaker Rebecca Hall and Iranian filmmaker Asghar Farhadi.

Ms. Padukone is part of the eight-member jury which will select one of the 21 films in competition with the coveted Palme d'Or during the closing ceremony on May 28.

India slips to 150 in press freedom index

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Press Club of India (PCI) and the Indian Women Press Corps (IWPC) on Tuesday said attacks on press freedoms had seen an exponential rise and that India did not fare too well in this regard, ranking 150 out of 180 countries in the World Press Freedom Index compiled by the Reporters Sans Frontières .

On World Press Freedom Day, the PCI said journalists had been incarcerated under draconian laws for flimsy reasons, and on some occasions, faced threat to their lives as well from "self-styled" custodians of law In the social media space.

"The freedom of the press is Integral to the functioning of a vibrant democracy. The media has to come together to reclaim its role towards realisation of this objective," they said in a joint statement.

Loco pilot gets drunk, delays Bihar local

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

A local train in dry Bihar was delayed for an hour on Monday at the Hasanpur station in the Samastipur division of East Central Railway (ECR), after the assistant loco pilot of the train went to get liquor. The stationmaster requested another assistant loco pilot travelling on the same train to take it to its destination.

The railway officials said the local train was on its way to the Saharsa junction and was stopped to let a Rajdhani Express pass. The train remained there for an hour. "Later, Karamvir Prasad Yadav came drunk and was unable take the train ahead," said the official. Samastipur Divisional Railway Manager Alok Agarwal promised strict action.

Centre asks States to keep beds, ventilators functional

They can retain infra supplied for COVID-19 management

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The States and Union Territories (UTs) will be asked to retain and use the infrastructure put in place for managing the COVID-19 pandemic, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Tuesday. He would be writing to the stakeholders in this regard.

Infrastructure, including beds and ventilators, should be kept functional and in use to ensure that they were readily available in case COVID-19 numbers rose again locally and also that they were used to benefit patients who came in with other ailments requiring hospitalisation.

"We will be writing to the States and Union Territories about this. The matter is under discussion and details of the proposal are being ironed out," the Health Minister said about the infrastructure that was put in place under the Centre-State partnership during the pandemic. The Union Health Ministry noted that it had been supporting the efforts of the States and the Union Territories towards management of COVID-19.

The Union Cabinet approved a scheme, "India COVID-19 Emergency Response & Health System Preparedness Package: Phase-II (ECRP-II package)", on July 8, 2021, amounting to ₹23,123 crore. This scheme was implemented from July 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022.

To fast-track the implementation of the ECRP-II, on July 22, 2021, ₹1827.8 crore had been released to the States and UTs as a 15% advance to undertake preparatory activities. Further, 35% funds were being released to the States and UTs, thus making a total of 50% release of funds so as to ensure the implementation of critical activities at the State and district levels to prepare the public healthcare systems in response to the evolving pandemic.

"This is a Centrally sponsored scheme with some Central sector components. It was brought in to accelerate the healthcare system preparedness for immediate responsiveness for early prevention, detection and management, with a focus on health infrastructure development, including for paediatric care, and with measurable outcomes. Under the CSS, the States/UTs have been supported by way of approvals for Emergency COVID Response Plans [ECRP] to the tune of ₹14744.99 crore," the Ministry stated.

Price of Covovax jab reduced

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A day after its COVID-19 vaccine Covovax was included on the Co-WIN portal for inoculation of children aged 12-17 at private vaccine centres in the country, the Serum Institute of India (SII) on Tuesday reduced the price of each dose from ₹900 to ₹225, excluding taxes.

Following the recommendation of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) the provision of the vaccine option was included on the portal on Monday.

The price of the vaccine, Covovax, is learnt to have been revised on the Co-WIN portal.

Thousands join Char Dham Yatra

Pilgrimage begins without COVID-19 restrictions for the first time in two years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DEHRADUN

The Char Dham Yatra began on Tuesday with the Gangotri and Yamunotri temples in Uttarkashi district thrown open to devotees on the occasion of Akshay Tritiya. The gates of Gangotri were opened at 11.15 a.m. and those of Yamunotri at quarter past noon in the presence of thousands of devotees and administrative and temple committee officials.

The idols of Ganga and Yamuna were brought in ornate palanquins decorated with flowers from their winter abodes before priests started the Vedic rituals to mark the opening of the temples.

Holy visit: Devotees visiting the Gangotri Dham temple in Gangotri on Tuesday. • PTI

A record number of pilgrims are likely to visit Char Dham this year as it is for the first time since 2019 that the yatra has begun without the COVID-19 restrictions in force. However, a daily limit has been imposed on the number of pilgrims so that they do not face any inconvenience due to limited accommodation available for them at the Himalayan temples.

The opening of the two temples marks the commencement of the Char Dham Yatra. The Kedarnath temple opens on May 6 and Badrinath on May 8. The daily limit on the number of pilgrims for Gangotri is 7,000, 4,000 for Yamunotri, 12,000 for Kedarnath and 15,000 for Badrinath.

Cricketing success for hearing challenged women

Maharashtra team emerges victorious in championship

SONAM SAIGAL
MUMBAI

Fauzia Khanum hadn't imagined that the first time she played professional cricket for her home State of Maharashtra, she would go on to win the National Women's Cricket Tournament held in Mumbai. This is the third time Maharashtra has won the championship for hearing challenged women.

Grand victory: Maharashtra defeated Uttar Pradesh by 10 wickets in the final. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The 22-year-old batter was part of the 11-member team that defeated Uttar Pradesh by 10 wickets. Ms. Khanum, who is hearing challenged by birth, lives with her parents and siblings, who aren't people with disabilities (PwD). "I was always interested in sports but would have never imagined that I would get an opportunity to play cricket at this level. Although my mother supported me, my father was convinced I would never do anything in my life," she said smilingly on a video call arranged via Anjali Rane, 23, an experienced interpreter for several organisations for the hearing challenged.

The youngest player, Chandani Khan, 19, is Ms. Khanum's friend. She, too, played professional cricket for the first time in this series. Ms. Khan, a bowler, had contacted the team's coach, Sachin Sarfare, and asked if she could play for the series.

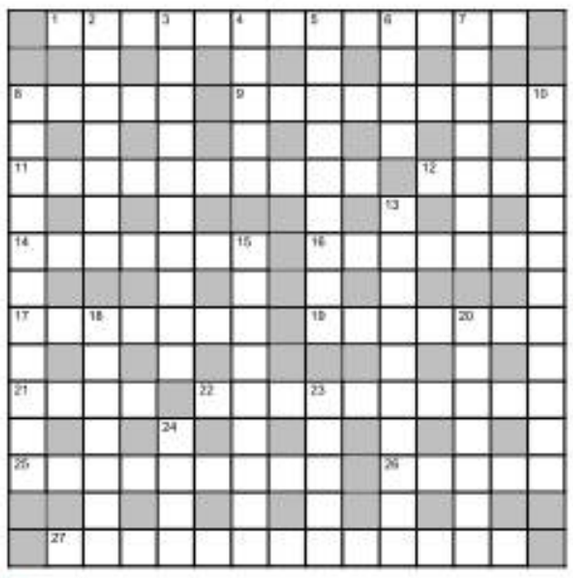
Mr. Sarfare, who is also hearing challenged, had been coaching the team for three months by then. "I had no experience of teaching cricket to women but they worked really hard and have done exceptionally well," Mr. Sarfare, who also trained the hearing challenged men's team that went on to win a Ranji Trophy, said.

TH CROSSWORD + 13547

(set by Dr. X)

Display keystrokes of genius. Type your answers in our online grids. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



ACROSS

1 Crisis time as female enthralled by drink runs after guys in outlet (6,2,5)
8 Sway and croon to entertain wife (5)
9 An allergy problem relating to the voice box (9)
11 Collapsed with cry of pain, primarily subluxating a joint in club (10)
12 Maiden over turns controversial (4)
14 Checks patient essentially overwhelmed by terrible stress (7)
16 Goes to sleep with professor, turns very, very loud (4,3)
17 Wants special laundry product more frequently (7)
19 Sends over ecstasy and joints (7)
21 Foxy novice turns to steal semi-precious stone (4)
22 International banker devouring roast ham is lover of good food (10)
25 Cheating with attractive person at old haunt (9)
26 Earthquake in Syracuse is minor (5)
27 In agreement with where newspaper's crossword and sudoku should be? (2,3,4,4)

DOWN

2 Nothing bothers cuddling love birds (7)
3 Fascinating song, singer's extraordinary (10)
4 Encounters revolting drunk on back street (5)
5 Rum or gin, free for visitor (9)
6 Skin is clear, no cracks (4)
7 Lot more shaky musical effect (7)
8 Rises after drinking fine old spirit to perform somersaults – no problems yet (2,3,2,4)
10 The French nob and model, enthralled by joint, release pent-up emotions (3,3,5)
13 Chitchat in one party about member getting amorous finally on drink (4,6)
15 Flags in front of railing aboard ships (9)
18 Enzyme assay procedure, primarily wrong (7)
20 Destroying drug cartel hosting event in retreat (7)
23 Carry master's sacred object (5)
24 Lad sent up hot food (4)

SUDOKU

				3	8			
	3	2		5			9	
1	6		4		9	5		
		4					1	
9				7				5
	2					6		
		3	7		2		5	6
	1			9		2	3	
			8	6				

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13546

E	X	E	R	C	I	S	E	S
N	N	O	T	S	I	E	P	
C	O	D	O	N	R	E	T	I
A	O	S	O	R	K	E	E	
M	A	R	S	E	I	L	L	E
P	S	N	L	W	P	I		
R	I	C	T	U	S	N	A	T
E	N	I			H	E	Y	
L	E	G	E	N	D	S	S	Y
E		G	H	T	P	U	A	
P	A	S	H	A	A	R	R	A
H	E	D	N	U	E	D	D	
A	S	T	O	U	N	D	E	D
N	A	L	Y	E	E	N	E	
T	W	E	N	T	Y	C	L	O

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	6	7	3	1	4	9	8	5
4	9	5	6	8	7	1	3	2
1	8	3	9	5	2	6	7	4
6	3	9	4	7	5	2	1	8
7	1	4	2	9	8	5	6	3
8	5	2	1	3	6	7	4	9
5	4	6	7	2	3	8	9	1
3	2	1	8	6	9	4	5	7
9	7	8	5	4	1	3	2	6

FAITH

Greatness from childhood

Signs of greatness were evident in Vaishnava Acharya Parasara Bhatta even when he was a child, said Thenthirupperai Aravindalochanan, in a discourse. He used to crawl to the Srirangam temple as an infant. So pleased was Lord Ranganatha, that He instructed His priests that they were not to trouble the baby. The baby could stay for as long as he wanted. Ranganatha and Goddess Ranganayaki would tie a cloth hammock to two pillars outside the sanctum sanctorum, and rock the baby Parasara to sleep.

At the appropriate time, Parasara Bhatta was sent to a *pathasala*, to study the Vedas. But when his father Kooratazhvan came to the Srirangam temple, he found Bhatta playing inside. When questioned, Bhatta replied that whatever had been taught was being repeated the next day. That was the usual method of instruction, to enable students to commit the Vedas to memory. But Bhatta was no ordinary child. He was an *eka santha grahi* – whatever he heard once was enough for him to remember forever. Kooratazhvan himself then undertook the task of teaching his son.

In those days, it was common for scholars to engage in debate, and a scholar named Sarvajna came to Srirangam to debate with Ramanujacharya's disciples. Parasara Bhatta approached him with a fistful of sand and said, "How much sand do I have in my hand?" Sarvajna had no answer, for who can count grains of sand? When he said he did not know, Parasara Bhatta replied, "You just had to say that I had a fistful of sand. If you can't even give such a simple reply, can you defeat Ramanujacharya's disciples in a debate?" Saravajna was stunned by the little boy's smartness and left Srirangam, not daring to argue with Ramanuja's disciples.

Russian troops storm Mariupol steel plant, say Ukrainian forces

A total of 101 people rescued before attack started on Azovstal steelworks: UN

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ZAPORIZHZHIA

Pocket of resistance: People crossing the street as smoke rises above the Azovstal steel plant on Monday. • REUTERS

Russian forces on Tuesday began storming the steel mill that represented the last pocket of resistance in Mariupol, Ukrainian defenders said, just as a convoy carrying scores of civilians evacuated from the plant over the weekend reached the relative safety of a Ukrainian-controlled city.

Osnat Lubrani, the UN humanitarian coordinator for Ukraine, said that thanks to the evacuation effort, "101 women, men, children and older persons could finally leave the bunkers below the Azovstal steelworks and see the daylight after two months."

The news for those left behind was more grim. Ukrainian fighters said Russian forces started storming the sprawling plant, which includes a maze of tunnels and bunkers.

Sviatoslav Palamar, deputy commander of Ukraine's Azov Regiment, said the Russians were mounting a heavy assault with "the support of armored vehicles and tanks, with attempts to land troops from boats and a large number of infantry."

The number of Ukrainian fighters holed up inside was unclear, but the Russians estimated the number at 2,000 weeks ago, and there were reports that 500 were wounded. A few hundred civilians also remained there, Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk said.

"We'll do everything that's possible to repel the assault, but we're calling for urgent measures to evacuate the civilians that remain inside the plant and to bring them safely," Mr. Palamar said on the messaging app Telegram.

He added that throughout the night, the plant was hit with naval artillery fire and airstrikes. Two civilian women were killed and 10 civilians were wounded, he said.

The assault began two weeks after Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered his military not to storm the plant to finish off the defenders but to seal it off.

It came as the first convoy of evacuees from the plant arrived in the Ukrainian-controlled city of Zaporizhzhia, some 230 kilometers northwest of Mariupol. They were allowed to leave the steel mill during a brief cease-fire over the weekend, in an operation overseen by the UN and the Red Cross.

In addition to the 101 people evacuated from the steelworks, 58 joined the convoy in a town on the outskirts of Mariupol, Mr. Lubrani said. Some decided not to travel all the way to Zaporizhzhia, where a total of 127 arrived.

India extends more aid to Sri Lanka

New Delhi will offer fuel worth $200 million based on a short-term loan facility

MEERA SRINIVASAN

Sri Lankan feminist scholar Kumari Jayawardena at the Galle Face Green protest site on Tuesday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sri Lanka's Cabinet has cleared a proposal to source more fuel from India, through a $200 million short-term loan facility from the Exim Bank of India, as the island nation struggles to cope with a deepening economic crisis.

"The Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Power to award this [fuel] contract to Indian Oil Corporation," the Department of Government Information said.

India has extended nearly $3 billion to cash-strapped Sri Lanka since January 2022, by way of currency swaps, credit lines for essentials, and loan deferments to help Sri Lanka amidst one of its worst economic crises in history.

A $400-million currency swap with the Reserve Bank of India, extended early this year, was on April 18 extended by another three months. A billion-dollar credit line for essential imports is operational and around 16,000 MT of rice has been supplied under it so far.

India has helped Sri Lanka defer repayment of loans totalling $1 billion under the Asian Clearing Union.

Further, 400,000 MT of fuel has been delivered to Sri Lanka through a $500 million credit facility, the Indian High Commission in Colombo said.

"Multi-pronged assistance provided by India testifies to the importance Government of India attaches to the welfare of the people of Sri Lanka and is guided by the twin principles of 'Neighbourhood First' and S.A.G.A.R (Security and Growth for All in the Region)," a statement said.

Sri Lanka's economic crash intensified from the beginning of this year, with the country's foreign reserves plunging to barely a couple of billion dollars, owing to an acute balance of payments crisis in recent years.

The crisis manifested in severe shortages of food, fuel and medicines, as the country experienced record inflation, that hit nearly 30% in April.

Consequently, the ruling Rajapaksa administration's popularity has plummeted over the last few months, with citizens demanding that President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa quit.

For almost a month now, demonstrators have been gathering at Colombo's seafront, protesting every day against the government's "failed" crisis response.

Students, professionals, businesspeople, worker unions, and scores of children, among others, can be spotted at the daily rallies, chanting anti-government slogans.

Renowned Sri Lankan artistes and scholars, such as Kandyan dance exponent Upeka Chitrasena, and senior feminist scholar Kumari Jayawardena participated in the protests this week.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka's Tourism Ministry reported that tourist arrivals have fallen nearly by half in April, compared to the 1,06,500 arrivals recorded in March.

The All Ceylon Tourist Service Providers' Association attributed the fall to the prevailing fuel shortages, frequent power cuts and short supply of medicines in local hospitals.

"Some are suggesting that the protests could be a deterrent, but that is not the case. Tourists are very supportive of the democratic protests, and there's even a stall for tourists at the agitation site in Colombo," Association Secretary Suranjith Wevita told *The Hindu*.

Slovakia wants to be left out of embargo on oil

EU to declare sanctions on Russian oil

REUTERS

Slovakia's sole oil refiner is Slovnaft, which is part of Hungary's MOL group.

Slovakia will seek an exemption from any embargo of Russian oil agreed by the European Union in its next set of sanctions against Moscow for its invasion of Ukraine, Slovakia's Economy Ministry said on Tuesday.

The European Commission is preparing a sixth package of sanctions against Russia and is expected to finalise work on Tuesday.

Two EU officials said on Monday that the EU executive may spare Slovakia and Hungary from an embargo on buying Russian oil, mindful of the two countries' dependence on Russian crude.

Slovakia gets nearly all of its imported crude from Russia mainly via the Soviet-era Druzhba pipeline, and the country has said it had reserves for 120 days.

Its sole oil refiner is Slovnaft, which is part of Hungary's MOL group.

"If it comes to an approved embargo of Russian oil as part of a further package of sanctions against Russia, then Slovakia will request an exemption," the Slovak ministry said in a reply to *Reuters* questions.

The Ministry said processing of different types of oil was not immediately possible and that a switch of technology was difficult financially and time-consuming. "Therefore we request a longer transition period for oil transported by pipeline," the Ministry said.

The Ministry also said Slovakia was intensively aiding Ukraine with fuel supplies, part of wider help the smaller neighbour has offered.

Slovakia has supplied weapons, including an S-300 air defence system, and other military aid to Ukraine. Prime Minister Eduard Heger has also been among western leaders to visit Kyiv in recent weeks.

On Monday, Ukraine's Foreign Minister, Dmytro Kuleba, thanked Slovakia for its support. "Ukraine will always remember what our Slovak friends did for us," Mr. Kuleba wrote on Twitter. "We are lucky to have Slovakia as a neighbour."

Israel backing 'neo-Nazi regime' in Kyiv: Moscow

Russian Ambassador summoned

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOSCOW

Moscow on Tuesday accused Israel of supporting "the neo-Nazi regime in Kyiv," doubling down on an allegation from the Russian Foreign Minister that Adolf Hitler may have "had Jewish blood" which sparked international outrage.

Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid on Monday condemned his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov for making an "unforgivable and outrageous statement as well as a terrible historical error" and summoned Moscow's Ambassador for "clarifications".

"Jews did not murder themselves in the Holocaust," he said. "The lowest level of racism against Jews is to accuse Jews themselves of antisemitism."

"We have paid attention to Foreign Minister Yair Lapid's anti-historical remarks, which largely explain the current government's decision to support the neo-Nazi regime in Kyiv," the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Tuesday.

"History unfortunately knows tragic examples of cooperation between Jews and Nazis," it said.

Mr. Lavrov, speaking to Italian outlet Mediaset's *Rete 4* channel in an interview released on Sunday, claimed that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky "puts forward an argument of what kind of Nazism can they have if he himself is Jewish".

Mr. Lavrov, according to a transcript posted on the Russian Foreign Ministry website, then added: "I could be wrong, but Hitler also had Jewish blood".

Bennett's remarks

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett also denounced Mr. Lavrov's "lies" that he said effectively "accuse the Jews themselves of the most awful crimes in history", perpetrated against themselves.

Moscow has frequently repeated that it aims to "demilitarise" and "denazify" Ukraine, justifying the "special military operation" it launched on 24 February.

On Tuesday, the Russian Foreign Ministry charged "the Jewish origins of the president (Zelensky) is not a guarantee of protection against rampant neo-Nazism in the country.

Al-Shabaab jihadists attack AU base in Somalia

30 soldiers feared killed, another 22 wounded; Militants deploy car-bombs, guns

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOGADISHU

Heavily armed Al-Shabaab jihadists stormed an African Union (AU) base in Somalia on Tuesday, triggering a fierce firefight that caused an unknown number of casualties, a local military commander and witnesses said.

AU forces dispatched helicopter gunships after the pre-dawn car bomb and gun attack on a camp housing Burundian peacekeepers near Ceel Baraf, a village about 160 kilometres northeast of the capital Mogadishu, the sources said.

A high-ranking Burundian military officer told AFP that about 30 soldiers were killed and another 22 wounded, while a dozen were missing. There was no confirmation about the toll from Somali or AU officials.

Al-Shabaab, which has been waging a deadly insurgency against Somalia's fragile central government for more than a decade, issued a statement claiming responsibility for the assault.

There has been no comment from AU Transition Mission (ATMIS) in Somalia or the central government on the attack, which comes with the country locked in a deep political crisis over delayed elections and facing the threat of famine.

The Burundian military source said about 400 Islamist fighters stormed the base after blowing up two car bombs. Burundian soldiers then retreated to a nearby hillside where they continued to fight.

The jihadists said in a statement they had taken control of the camp and claimed to have killed 173 African Union soldiers.

China's special representative lands in Seoul

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SEOUL

China will play a "constructive" role in resolving tensions on the Korean peninsula, Beijing's top envoy to Pyongyang said on Tuesday.

Beijing is Pyongyang's most important ally and economic benefactor, their relationship forged in the bloodshed of the Korean War in the 1950s.

China's special representative on Korean peninsula affairs, Liu Xiaoming, is in Seoul this week for his first visit to the South since taking office. He met his South Korean counterpart, Noh Kyu-duk, on Tuesday.

The two envoys discussed the "grave situation" on the Korean peninsula and measures for "stable management", Seoul's Foreign Ministry said.

North Korea has carried out more than a dozen weapons tests this year.

Pyongyang is under multiple sets of international sanctions over its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes.

'Imran willing to talk early polls with Sharif'

His aide spells out plans for protest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD

Imran Khan

Pakistan's former Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed has claimed that ousted premier Imran Khan is ready to discuss the holding of early elections with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, as he made a strong case for clearing "misunderstandings" between the ruling and Opposition parties.

Mr. Rashid, who heads the Awami National League-Pakistan, is a key alliance partner of the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI).

Mega march planned

PTI activists are set to launch a mega-march to the federal capital, here, from all corners of the country at the end of the month, demanding dates of early elections, *Dawn News* reported.

Mr. Rashid said the demonstrations should be limited to convincing the Election Commission of Pakistan to hold early polls and no other state institution should be attacked.

"I have started efforts yesterday to remove misunderstanding between them (PTI and the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz)," Mr. Rashid was quoted in an article published in *VOA News* on Monday.

"I am in favour of peace with the Army, but in case of 'war' I will stand by Imran Khan," Mr. Rashid said.

He said Mr. Khan was ready to hold talks with the Sharif government for early general elections, but it required the guarantee of "powerful quarters'', an indirect reference to the powerful military establishment.

EU to offer medical data to its patients

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
STRASBOURG

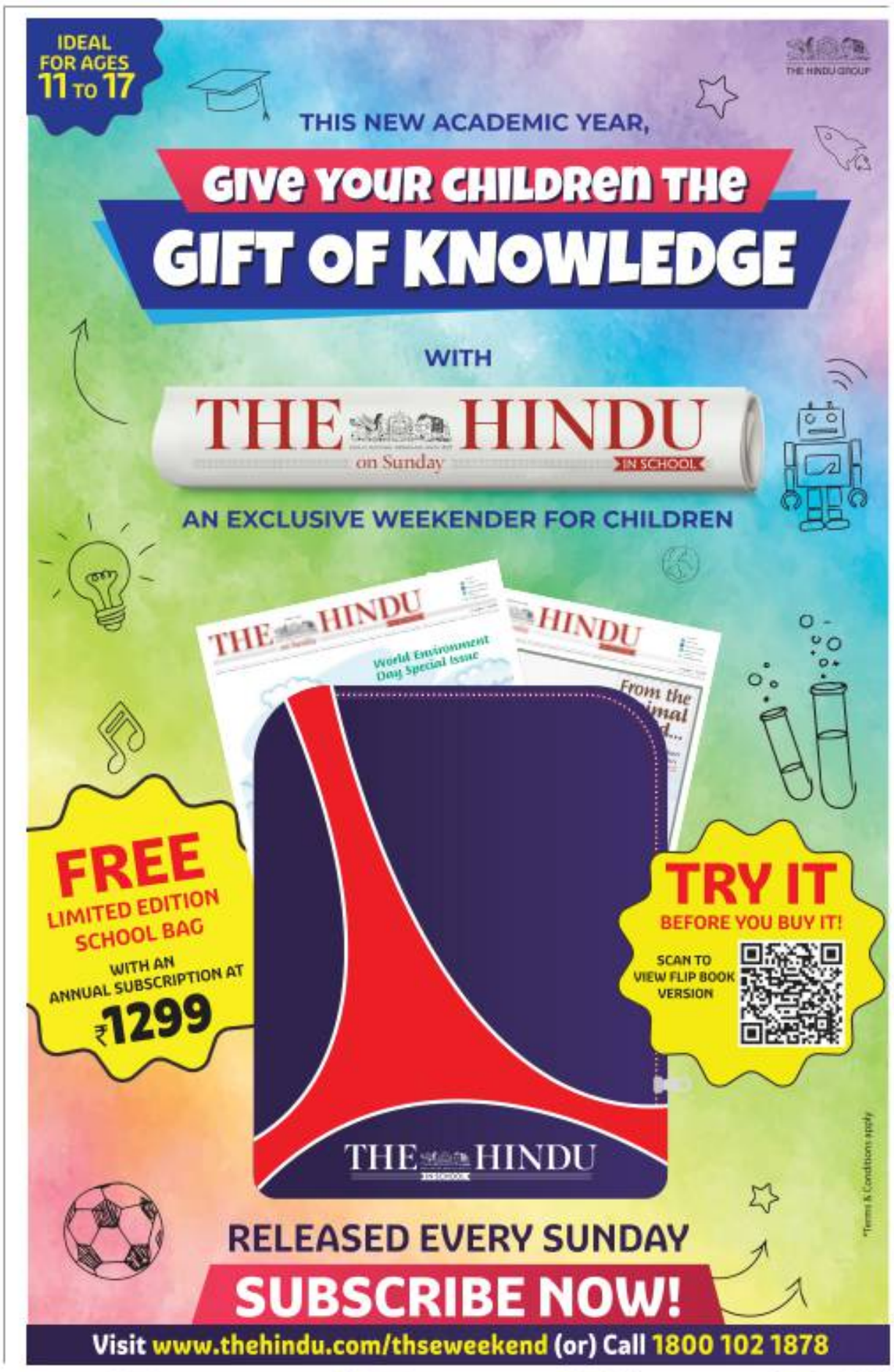
The European Commission on Tuesday put forward a proposal that would let patients access their medical data anywhere in the bloc, creating an EU-wide platform that could also be used for research.

The scheme, called the European Health Data Space, gained impetus from the coronavirus pandemic and Brussels' lead in obtaining vaccines and creating a bloc-wide COVID status certificate.

Currently, medical records are retained by family doctors or at a regional or national level.

The commission's plan is to give patients free and easy digital access to their medical information, so it could be used by other doctors, anywhere in the EU.

That would avoid the need for costly duplicate X-rays or analyses that had already been recorded, potentially saving more than five billion euros, according to the commission.



Tata Steel Q4 net rises 37% to ₹9,835 cr.

Steelmaker announces 10:1 stock split, board also recommends a dividend of ₹51 per share

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Tata Steel Ltd. reported fourth-quarter consolidated net profit rose 37% to ₹9,835 crore helped by a jump in sales on 'higher prices in Europe and higher deliveries in India and Europe'.

Revenue for the quarter ended March, increased by almost 39% to ₹69,324 crore.

For the full year, profit surged fivefold to ₹41,749 crore, as revenue climbed 56% to ₹2,43,959 crore.

Key hub: The Kalinganagar expansion will help drive cost savings, product mix enrichment, says CEO. • BISWARANJAN ROUT

"Tata Steel has again demonstrated its ability to deliver stellar results despite heightened complexity in the face of COVID as well as geopolitical tensions," CEO & MD T.V. Narendran said on a conference call. "Our Indian business showed broad based growth across our chosen segments due to our sustained focus on customer relationships, our distribution network and our portfolio of brands supported by our agile business model. Our European operations delivered robust performance as the transformation programme undertaken helped to leverage the strong business environment," he added.

The company said net debt declined to ₹51,049 crore, adding that it would continue to cut debt going forward despite higher capital allocation.

Tata Steel's board recommended a dividend of ₹51 per fully paid equity share and ₹12.75 per partly paid-up equity share. It also proposed a 10:1 stock split with each share split into 10 with face value of ₹1 each.

The company said annual crude steel ouput had hit a record 19.06 million tons last fiscal, a growth of 13%.

'Strong momentum'

Providing its outlook for the first quarter, Tata Steel said it sees 'strong underlying momentum despite short-term volatility' with the Russia-Ukraine war and energy costs posing risks.

Mr. Narendran said the company had pursued several initiatives to de-risk the business particularly across its supply chain. "We... continue to invest in technology and digitisation to drive productivity and improve our resilience," he said, adding that the Kalinganagar expansion was progressing well and would help drive cost savings as well as product mix enrichment.

"We have closed the financial year with consistent and record operating and financial performance despite the significant surge in international coal prices and inflationary impact of various commodities," observed ED & CFO Koushik Chatterjee.

"We continue to focus on deleveraging while advancing on our strategic growth priorities – our focus is on completion of the Kalinganagar expansion," he said, adding the company had a capital allocation plan of ₹12,000 crore for FY23 and this figure could likely be scaled up in the middle of the year.

Telcos urge big cut in 5G spectrum price, cite viability

Will take at least 5 years for profits on 5G investments: COAI

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI

The Cellular Operators Association of India is pitching for a 'significant' reduction in 5G spectrum prices recommended by sectoral regulator TRAI to ensure a 'viable business' case. The association flagged that it would take the telecom industry at least five years to realise profits on the huge investments that would go into 5G roll-outs.

S.P. Kochhar

"The prices for 5G spectrum will be determined by demand and supply, and currently there is really no viable business case for 5G," COAI director-general S.P. Kochhar said.

Pointing out that even developed countries, where 5G had been introduced, were expecting maximum revenue to come from enterprise customers. However, that had not happened and only about 10-15% revenues were coming from enterprises.

"We will have to invest huge amounts in spectrum, in radios and in networks, ... with profits being seen maybe 5-6 years down the line... It should be a viable business case that we get spectrum at an affordable cost that does not make us bankrupt or make all our money go down the drain till the time the anticipated use case comes, if at all it comes," he explained.

He stressed that the government would not lose out overall because up till 4G, it was getting revenue from spectrum and taxes on consumer tariffs. Now, all industries were going to ride on 5G; their output capacity and profit margins will rise and hence, their contribution via taxes to the exchequer was going to increase massively, he pointed out.

Omega Seiki to expand EVs to trucks, drones

Firm to raise capacity, says chairman

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

Electric vehicle (EV) manufacturer Omega Seiki Mobility Pvt. Ltd. said it would begin manufacturing e-trucks in capacities ranging from 1.5, to 3.5 and 6.5 tonnes, as well as e-drones and e-tractors, to help broaden its offerings. The company is also working on a high-speed scooter range and e-rickshaws, founder and chairman Uday Narang said.

Uday Narang

Currently, the company manufactures seven EV models, including five three-wheeler models and two two-wheelers.

"We are looking to be a global electric cargo manufacturer," Mr. Narang said in an interview. The company produces EVs at two units in IMT Faridabad. It is putting up another plant in Faridabad in this quarter. Its facilities have capacity of 12,000 units a month and the plan is to raise it to 20,000 units, Mr. Narang said.

India sets June-end coal import target as power woes mount

April electricity demand soars to record high on heatwave

REUTERS
NEW DELHI

India has asked state and private sector utilities to ensure delivery of 19 million tonnes of coal from overseas by end-June, according to a Power Ministry letter, reflecting an urgency to secure supplies in a pricey market amid increasing blackouts.

The move, which marks the first time the world's second-largest coal importer is issuing timelines for imports, can put pressure on global coal prices as the utilities rush to avoid a repeat of the electricity crisis in April.

If the timelines are adhered to, imports by the states and private utilities over the next five months for blending with local coal will surpass annual imports by the entities in at least six years. An unrelenting heatwave pushed electricity demand to a record high in April, leading to the worst power crisis in more than six years, forcing India to go back on a policy to cut down coal imports.

The Centre has asked State government-owned utilities to import more than 22 million tonnes of coal and private power plants to import 15.94 million tonnes, the Power Ministry said in a letter reviewed by Reuters.

The Ministry asked all utilities to ensure delivery of 50% of the allocated quantity by June 30, 40% by end-August and the remaining by the end of October, according to the letter to top officials at State energy departments and heads of private power plants.

Sundaram Finance raises deposit rates

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Non-banking financal company Sundaram Finance Ltd. has revised upwards the interest rates on deposits for two and three years with effect from May 9.

The company will pay 5.9% per annum against 5.65% paid earlier on two-year deposits and 6.05% per annum (5.8%) on three-year deposits, it said in a statement.

For senior citizens, the company will pay 6.4% per annum (6.15%) on two-year deposits and 6.55% per annum (6.3%) on three-year deposits, according to the company. Interest rates on 12-month deposits remain unchanged.

LIC raises ₹5,627 crore from anchor investors

Domestic MFs garner lion's share

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Insurance behemoth LIC on Tuesday said it had garnered a little more than ₹5,627 crore from anchor investors led primarily by domestic institutions ahead of its mega initial public offering (IPO).

The anchor investors' (AIs) portion of 5,92,96,853 equity shares was subscribed at ₹949 per equity share, the insurer said in a filing with the stock exchanges. Of the allocation of about 5.9 crore shares to AIs, 4.2 crore shares (71.12%) were allocated to 15 domestic mutual funds via 99 schemes, the firm said.

Investments were also made by some domestic insurance firms and pension funds. Prominent names in this category included ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, SBI Life Insurance, Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance, PNB Metlife Insurance, SBI Pension Fund and UTI Retirement Solutions Pension Fund Scheme.

Adani buys 'Kohinoor,' other brands

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Adani Wilmar Ltd. (AWL) on Tuesday announced the acquisition of several brands, including the renowned 'Kohinoor' brand from McCormick Switzerland GMBH to strengthen its leadership in food business.

The deal size was not disclosed. The acquisition would give AWL exclusive rights over the brand 'Kohinoor' basmati rice along with 'Ready-to-Cook', 'Ready-to-Eat' curries and meals portfolio under the Kohinoor brand in India, the company said in a statement. The acquisition will fuel the next level of growth for AWL, it added.

Garment firms call for ban on cotton exports as prices surge

Textile mills flag lack of accurate output, consumption data

M. SOUNDARIYA PREETHA
COIMBATORE

With some textile mills raising cotton yarn prices on Monday, garment manufacturers in Tiruppur have called for a ban on export of cotton and cotton yarn.

Textile mills have, meanwhile, urged the Union Government to come out with a system to collect accurate data on cotton production and consumption.

"There is no data on cotton production, consumption, stocks available with farmers and traders," Ravi Sam, chairman of Southern India Mills' Association (SIMA), said.

"Textile mills are adding spindles and cotton consumption is increasing. Only with proper data can the government take decisions that will help the industry,"

It is estimated that at least two lakh spindles are added every month leading to higher demand for cotton. Textile mills have started contracting cotton from overseas suppliers though international prices are at present slightly higher than domestic prices. If cotton and yarn exports are banned, prices will crash and the mills will incur losses, he said.

Cotton prices reduced slightly when the government removed the import duty. However, prices have started rising since.

The government should announce a technology mission on cotton to increase productivity and introduce a system to collect proper data on cotton, he said.

Irish regulator flags deficiency at Biocon unit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Biocon Biologics on Tuesday said Ireland's health regulator had reported some deficiencies in the manufacturing process at the company's plant in Bengaluru.

The Health Products Regulatory Authority, Ireland, conducted an inspection of a Biocon Biologics' monoclonal antibody drug substance manufacturing unit in Bengaluru, a company spokesperson said.

"The inspection report contains no 'critical' observations and only one of the deficiencies is categorised as 'major' which is being addressed," the spokesperson added.

'AC sales hit record high in April on heatwave'

Component shortage an issue: CEAMA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Driven by the early arrival of summer and an intense heat wave, residential air-conditioner makers are looking forward to record sales of around 90 lakh units this year, the Consumer Electronics and Appliances Manufacturers Association said on Tuesday.

Already, the industry has clocked sales of about 17.5 lakh units in April, which is also an all-time high for the month.

However, the availability of certain products could be an issue in the next couple of months as manufacturers may not be in a position to supply their entire range of models to meet market demand, especially the energy-efficient 5-star range, due to high demand and supply constraints of components such as controllers and compressors, said Eric Braganza, president of CEAMA (Consumer Electronics and Appliances Manufacturers Association).

Akshaya Tritiya spurs gold sales

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Gold sales rebounded on Akshaya Tritiya after remaining subdued for the past two years due to COVID-19, as a price decline along with a public holiday on Tuesday led to heavy footfall at jewellery stores, industry players said.

Jewellers witnessed heavy interest among customers for gold on the day considered auspicious for buying the precious metal. Sales are expected to be 10% higher over last year's.

"We are expecting to comfortably surpass the 2019 level," All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council vice-chairman Saiyam Mehra said.

SPORT

Talent aplenty as India ask the same question ahead of World T20

The tournament is in Australia in October-November, and as always the team will arrive there as one of the favourites

BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

One of the consequences of India winning the T20 World Cup in 2007 was the establishment of the IPL. The World Cup was not a tournament India were expected to win, or even take part in since the cricket board thought the format was a bit of a joke. Senior players looked down upon it, with Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid and Sourav Ganguly informing the selectors they would not be interested in participating.

Within a year, the IPL had arrived, with Brendon McCullum hitting 158 in the inaugural match. The combination of cricket and Bollywood, which had been so successful when 50-over cricket was taken to Sharjah in the 1980s, continued to entertain. With the IPL, it went one step further with Shah Rukh Khan (among others) becoming the face of one of the teams.

Fond hope

There was a fond hope then that India would become so comfortable with the format they would dominate it for years. It was one of the theories on which the tournament itself was sold to a somewhat sceptical audience.

Yet it must be a matter of some concern that since winning in 2007 when Joginder Sharma bowled that crucial last over against Pakistan and S. Sreesanth took the final catch, India have not won the T20 World Cup. They made it to the final once, in 2014, losing to Sri Lanka, but have otherwise entered the tournament with a bigger reputation than they have left it.

The anomaly is not easily explained. One theory is that other domestic T20 tournaments have levelled the playing field, and since teams all have access to the same information regarding their rivals, surprises are harder to generate. Familiarity has bred. The IPL, for its part, is as much a training and familiarising ground for the other teams as it is for India although more Indians play in a season than foreigners.

Watching the current edition, with its young eye-catchers from Umran Malik to Ruturaj Gaikwad, and a range of talented fast bowlers and spinners, that old feeling is bound to return: Will this be India's year at the T20 World Cup? The tournament is in Australia in October-November, and as always India will arrive there as one of the favourites.

Their players, who play just one domestic tournament, the IPL, will be up against many who spread their talents across various domestic T20 leagues in different countries – Australia, the West Indies, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, England – and that might be a factor.

Many such players have been dismissed as mercenaries, hired guns and so on but clearly the experience has been valuable. The Board of Control for Cricket in India does not permit Indian players to participate in leagues outside the country fearing it will both diminish the value of the IPL and interfere with the international calendar.

It is not always possible to find the balance between wealth-creation and national obligation.

Long period

Still, 15 years is a long waiting period for a team that boasts of having the best T20 league in the world, richer, more competitive, and with a bigger audience. Six different countries have won the seven tournaments so far (the West Indies having won twice). This could point to the level playing field referred to earlier or the essential uncertainty of the format. Perhaps even the term 'favourites' is outdated. Every team must legitimately believe they can win.

The IPL has shown that talent in the country is both widespread and deep. On a given day, any of the seven Indians in the team could turn out to be the match-winner; teams that rely on two or three performers are often surprised by an unheralded player making the difference. Every bowler seems capable of claiming that crucial wicket, every batsman capable of making that 25 off six deliveries that swings a match.

It might all boil down to team selection in the end. In the first edition of the World T20 in 2007, there was no pressure on the selectors. Now they play a vital role. In longer formats, selection involves the present and the future – you sometimes pick a young player just to give him the feel of the contest. In shorter formats it will have to be the best available team at any given time, with no room for experimentation.

Game awareness

India's young and debutant IPL cricketers display a confidence and game awareness that augur well. Batsmen arrive at the crease knowing exactly what to do, bowlers are aware of what is expected of them, and in general the fielding has been excellent.

After winning the 50-over World Cup in 1983, India next won after six more tournaments, in 2011. There have been six tournaments since India last won the T20 in 2007...

Sasikiran, four others in the lead

CHESS

SPORTS BUREAU

K. Sasikiran of India defeated Ukraine's Oleg Romanishin and joined teammate D. Gukesh and three others in the lead at 3.5 points after four rounds of the Chessables Sunway International chess tournament in Punta Prima, Spain, on Monday.

Gukesh holds Santos

On the top board, Gukesh drew with top seed Latasa Jaime Santos (Spain) to reach 3.5 points. Armenia's Haik Martirosyan and Spain's Ruiz Miguel Santos are the other leaders.

Soham Das, the third Indian in the fray, beat Jacques Bernard (France) to raise his tally to 2.5 points.

Kings tower over Titans, climb to No. 5 spot

Dhawan, Rajapaksa and Livingstone help Punjab ace the chase after it restricts Gujarat to 143; Sai Sudharsan shines

IPL 2022

SHAYAN ACHARYA
NAVI MUMBAI

Gujarat Titans won the toss against Punjab Kings and decided to bat first – becoming the first team to do so in a night game in this edition of the Indian Premier League. But the move didn't pay off as Punjab Kings rode on Kagiso Rabada's four for 33 and Shikhar Dhawan's unbeaten 62 (53b, 8x4, 1x6) to beat Titans by eight wickets at the D.Y. Patil Stadium on Tuesday.

After Rabada restricted Titans to 143 for eight, despite an unbeaten 65 by B. Sai Sudharsan, Punjab Kings lost its opener Jonny Bairstow early.

Ruling the night: Dhawan steered Kings home in style after Rabada (4/33) pegged back Titans for whom Sai Sudharsan (65 n.o.) top-scored. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

Stepping up

But Dhawan stepped up and forged an 87-run stand with Sri Lankan Bhanuka Rajapaksa (40, 28b, 5x4, 1x6) for the second wicket to ensure that there was no slip-up.

While Dhawan, who scored his third half-century of the season, started cautiously, Rajapaksa looked aggressive – hitting Mohammed Shami for a couple of fours in the third over. Dhawan, too, joined with a six and a four off Alzarri Joseph in the next over.

As Lockie Ferguson bowled the 12th over, Dhawan brought up his 47th IPL half-century. Two deliveries later, Rajapaksa sent Ferguson for a six, but was trapped leg before off the next ball. By then, Kings needed only 47 runs from 48 deliveries and with Dhawan and Liam Livingstone (30 n.o., 10b, 2x4, 3x6) around. Livingstone picked up 28 runs in the 16th over bowled by Shami to ensure Kings romped home with 24 balls to spare.

Earlier, with a spot in the playoffs almost assured, Titans decided to defend a total. But that plan did not yield the desired result as the side was reeling at 46 for three in seven overs, losing openers Wriddhiman Saha, Shubman Gill and captain Hardik Pandya.

Sudharsan put on a 23-run stand with big-hitter David Miller, but that was not enough as Rabada caught the South African batter at long-off, off Livingstone.

Featuring in his fourth IPL game of the season, the Chennai-based Sudharsan added another 45 runs with Rahul Tewatia for the fifth wicket before Rabada tempted the latter to offer a catch to Sandeep Sharma at short third-man.

Innings scan

GT		PBKS
47	Dots	40
11	Fours	15
2	Sixes	5
42/2	PP	43/1
7.15	RR	9.06

Next assignment

GT: May 6 vs. **MI**
Brabourne, 7.30 p.m.

PBKS: May 7 vs. **RR**
Wankhede, 3.30 p.m.

SCOREBOARD

GUJARAT TITANS
Wriddhiman Saha c Mayank b Rabada 21 *(17b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Shubman Gill run out 9 *(6b, 2x4)*, Sai Sudharsan (not out) 65 *(50b, 5x4, 1x6)*, Hardik Pandya c Jitesh b Rishi Dhawan 1 *(7b)*, David Miller c Rabada b Livingstone 11 *(14b)*, Rahul Tewatia c Sandeep b Rabada 11 *(13b)*, Rashid Khan c Jitesh b Rabada 0 *(1b)*, Pradeep Sangwan b Arshdeep 2 *(5b)*, Lockie Ferguson c Livingstone b Rabada 5 *(3b, 1x4)*, Alzarri Joseph (not out) 4 *(5b)*; Extras (b-1, lb-4, w-8, nb-1): 14; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 143.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-17 (Gill, 2.1 overs), 2-34 (Saha, 3.5), 3-44 (Hardik, 6.2), 4-67 (Miller, 11.2), 5-112 (Tewatia, 16.2), 6-112 (Rashid, 16.3), 7-122 (Sangwan, 17.4), 8-129 (Ferguson, 18.2).

PUNJAB KINGS BOWLING
Sandeep 4-0-17-0, Rabada 4-0-33-4, Arshdeep 4-0-36-1, Rishi Dhawan 4-0-26-1, Livingstone 2.3-0-15-1, Rahul Chahar 1.3-0-11-0.

PUNJAB KINGS
Jonny Bairstow c Sangwan b Shami 1 *(6b)*, Shikhar Dhawan (not out) 62 *(53b, 8x4, 1x6)*, Bhanuka Rajapaksa lbw b Ferguson 40 *(28b, 5x4, 1x6)*, Liam Livingstone (not out) 30 *(10b, 2x4, 3x6)*; Extras (b-1, lb-3, w-7, nb-1): 12; Total (for two wkts. in 16 overs): 145.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-10 (Bairstow, 2.2), 2-97 (Rajapaksa, 11.6).

TITANS BOWLING
Shami 4-0-43-1, Sangwan 2-0-23-0, Joseph 3-0-25-0, Ferguson 3-0-29-1, Rashid 4-0-21-0.

Toss: GT; **MoM:** Rabada.

PBKS won by eight wickets with four overs to spare.

CSK will be keen to ride the momentum

RCB will want to snap losing streak

Finding his rhythm: Kohli was finally among the runs in the match against Titans. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

AMOL KARHADKAR
PUNE

It's Faf du Plessis versus Chennai Super Kings, Part-2. But there will be much more at stake on Wednesday night at the Maharashtra Cricket Association's Stadium on Wednesday night than a veteran who was a permanent fixture in the yellows before the big reshuffle.

CSK has only six points from nine games and Royal Challengers Bangalore 10 from 10. For a variety of reasons, both the teams will be desperate to add two points to their kitty.

CSK, with M.S. Dhoni's return to captaincy, appeared to be a settled unit for the first time this season during its win over Sunrisers Hyderabad here on Sunday.

It will be keen to not drop the guard in its second consecutive Southern Indian Derby. After all, another defeat can virtually end its hopes of defending the title.

RCB, on the other hand, will be eager to return to winning ways.

Five wins in the first seven games under new captain du Plessis seemed to be working to precision. But, since then, it's been a run downhill with the team losing its last three games.

The lack of runs from the top order has been RCB's primary concern.

It will be hoping for Virat Kohli, who returned to scoring runs with a slow fifty against table-topper Gujarat Titans, to switch gears and Glenn Maxwell to accelerate in order for the team to keep the team in the hunt.

While RCB is unlikely to change its combination, it will be interesting to see if Moeen Ali and Dwayne Bravo have recovered from their niggles. If either of them is available, Mitchell Santner is likely to make way.

TODAY'S MATCH

RCB vs. CSK
MCA STADIUM, 7.30 P.M.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 29
RCB 9 | CSK 19 | NR 1

Previous meeting:
CSK won by 23 runs, 2022

STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD)

POINTS TABLE

Teams	M	W	L	Pts	NRR
Gujarat Titans	10	8	2	**16**	0.158
Lucknow Super Giants	10	7	3	**14**	0.397
Rajasthan Royals	10	6	4	**12**	0.340
Sunrisers Hyderabad	9	5	4	**10**	0.471
Punjab Kings	10	5	5	**10**	-0.229
Royal Challengers Bangalore	10	5	5	**10**	-0.558
Delhi Capitals	9	4	5	**8**	0.587
Kolkata Knight Riders	10	4	6	**8**	0.060
Chennai Super Kings	9	3	6	**6**	-0.407
Mumbai Indians	9	1	8	**2**	-0.836

AFTER THE GT-PBKS MATCH ON MAY 3

Mukesh's parents revel in his success

The left-arm pacer has been a revelation for the Super Kings

AMOL KARHADKAR
PUNE

Soon after Ruturaj Gaikwad blitzed his way to 99, another small town boy - Mukesh Choudhary - was in the limelight for Chennai Super Kings versus Sunrisers Hyderabad on Sunday night. When he dismissed Abhishek Sharma and Rahul Tripathi off successive deliveries, a couple that was sitting in the gallery along with Gaikwad's parents was anxious.

That Mukesh was on the verge of earning a hat-trick in the Indian Premier League didn't really matter to them. Gopal and Prembai Choudhary – who had travelled from Darwha, a small town almost an hour's drive from Yavatmal, a district headquarter in Maharashtra's Vidarbha region – were thrilled to be watching their son shining bright in front of a capacity crowd.

"It was an amazing feeling to watch him play live and do so well, in fact I don't know how to describe the happiness in words," Gopal told *The Hindu*.

After a stint as a net bowler for Sunrisers Hyderabad earlier, Mukesh was called up as the Chennai Super Kings' net bowler for the IPL's UAE leg in 2021. And after impressing Mahendra Singh Dhoni, CSK bought him at the base price at the auction. Mukesh, the wily left-arm pacer, has come good for the team, scalping 11 wickets in eight games so far.

While Gopal, who runs a stone-crushing business in the town that's been his home for almost four decades, had to return to work, Prembai will be back in the stands to cheer her son against Royal Challengers Bangalore on Wednesday.

"We had only watched him live on the internet earlier. Before the Mushtaq Ali T20s in Lucknow (in 2021), he called and asked us to subscribe to online streaming to be able to watch him. But this experience was something else," added Gopal.

Making it big: CSK's punt has paid rich dividends with Mukesh scalping 11 wickets so far. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

IN BRIEF

Murray beats Thiem

MADRID

It's all starting to click again for Andy Murray. The former No. 1 is feeling good about his game, and confident he's on track to getting back to his best after having two hip surgeries. The evidence came with a 6-3, 6-4 win over Dominic Thiem on Monday at the Madrid Open in his first match on clay in nearly two years. AFP

Anderson calls it a day

LONDON

Two-time Grand Slam finalist Kevin Anderson announced his retirement from professional tennis on Tuesday. The 6'8" 35-year-old South African was the runner-up to Rafael Nadal at the U.S. Open in 2017 – No. 32 at the time, Anderson was the lowest-ranked finalist in the tournament's history – and to Novak Djokovic at Wimbledon in 2018. AP

Ramkumar gets past Fernando Verdasco

AIX-EN-PROVENCE (FRANCE)

Ramkumar Ramanathan got past former World No. 7 and seventh seed, Fernando Verdasco, in the first round of the € 90,280 Challenger tennis in Aix-en-Provence (France) on Tuesday. Ramkumar led 6-4, 1-0 against the 108th-ranked Verdasco when the Spaniard retired.
In the ITF women's event in Nottingham, Rutuja Bhosale lost from the brink of victory as qualifier Gabriela Andrea Knutson of the Czech Republic prevailed 5-7, 7-6(4), 6-4.

Pooran is West Indies' white-ball captain

ST. JOHN'S (ANTIGUA)

Nicholas Pooran has replaced Kieron Pollard as captain of the West Indies One-Day International and Twenty20 teams. Pollard retired from internationals last week. Pooran has been Pollard's deputy for a year. Cricket West Indies confirmed the captaincy on Tuesday.

IPL playoffs venues confirmed, women's T20 from May 23

AMOL KARHADKAR
PUNE

Kolkata and Ahmedabad will host the Indian Premier League playoffs, while the Women's T20 Challenge will be played in Pune later this month.

In a statement, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Jay Shah announced that the IPL playoffs will be split at the Eden Gardens and the Narendra Modi Stadium.

The playoffs will begin in Kolkata, with the first qualifier and the eliminator to be played on May 24 and 25, respectively.

The IPL entourage will then move to Ahmedabad for the second qualifier (May 27) and the final (May 29). It will be the first time the Narendra Modi Stadium will host an IPL game in its new avatar as the cricket stadium with the largest spectator capacity.

Women's T20 Challenge

- May 23, 24, 26 and 28 (all in Pune)

IPL playoffs

- **May 24:** Qualifier-1 (Kolkata)
- **May 25:** Eliminator (Kolkata)
- **May 27:** Qualifier-2 (Ahmedabad)
- **May 29:** Final (Ahmedabad)

Three-team affair

The T20 Women's Challenge, meanwhile, will continue to be a three-team affair with four games, including the final.

The matches will be played on May 23, 24, 26 and 28 at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium on the outskirts of Pune.

Ample time

With the last IPL game in Pune scheduled for May 14, the women's squads – yet to be announced – will get ample time to prepare for the tournament.

City plots another successful raid in Madrid

Will Real conjure up yet another European great escape?

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MADRID

Pep Guardiola has urged his Manchester City stars to show their "personality" as the Spaniard plots yet another successful visit to Real Madrid in Wednesday's Champions League semifinal second leg.

Guardiola's side heads to Madrid with a slender 4-3 advantage after last week's thrilling first leg at the Etihad Stadium.

With a place in the Champions League final at stake, Guardiola can take comfort from his impressive record in Madrid.

Many star-studded teams have folded in Real's intimidating Bernabeu Stadium. But Guardiola has never been cowed by the prospect of facing Real on its own turf, winning six times and losing just once in nine visits with City, Barcelona and Bayern Munich.

City has already won at the Bernabeu in the Guardiola era, securing a 2-1 triumph in the Champions League last 16 first leg two years ago on route to eliminating the Spanish club.

Fuelled by Karim Benzema's incredible goal blitz, Real has already staged two dramatic comebacks at the Bernabeu to knock out Paris Saint Germain and Chelsea in the previous two rounds.

With that in mind, Guardiola has no intention of underestimating Carlo Ancelotti's team, saying: "I've lost and won against them. You play hundreds of times against a rival, you win and lose and none of that (past history) comes into it.

"The talent they have, the only way to beat them is to be better.

"It's a good test for us. We have to show our personality in the game. We will play to win."

Potent forwards: The likes of Grealish, Silva, Mahrez and De Bruyne will be expected to impose City's dominance. • GETTY IMAGES

Ancelotti, meanwhile, admitted that Real will have to gamble if it is to come from behind.

"If we sit deep, we won't concede 99 shots and if we get into their box they are going have a go at us but sometimes you have to take risks," Ancelotti said.

Ancelotti said Real will need more than just character to defeat City.

Ancelotti confirmed that Real Madrid defender David Alaba will miss the game through injury and will be replaced by Nacho Fernandez. But Casemiro is fit again, handing Madrid a significant boost in midfield.

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: Sports 18, Vh1, Jio TV, Voot Select & MTV, 5 a.m.
IPL 2022: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.
FIH Pro League: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8.30 p.m.
Champions League: Sony Ten 2 & 3 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 12.30 a.m. (Thursday)

IN BRIEF

Antetokounmpo helps Milwaukee draw first blood

BOSTON

Giannis Antetokounmpo had his second career post season triple-double, scoring 24 points with 13 rebounds and 12 assists on Sunday to lead Milwaukee Bucks to a 101-89 victory over Boston Celtics in Game 1 of the second-round playoff series. AGENCIES

FIFA+ goes live with *Maitanam*

MUMBAI

FIFA announced the launch of documentary *Maitanam* for the newly-launched digital streaming platform FIFA+ in India on Sunday. *Maitanam* joins an elite list of global sports storytelling content as part of the select FIFA+ Originals made available globally. ANI

Haryana emerges champion

KOLKATA

Haryana beat Mumbai on the basis of the first innings lead to emerge as the champion in the Cooch Behar Trophy at the Eden Gardens here on Tuesday.

The scores: Haryana 437 in 122.2 overs (Nishant Sindhu 115, Rohan Deshwal 101, Sarvesh Rohilla 100 n.o., Prince Badiani 3/119, Suryansh Shedge 3/141) and 211/5 in 68 overs (Dinesh Bana 62 n.o., Mayank Shandilya 31, Rohan Deshwal 30, Suryansh Shedge 3/86) bt Mumbai 303 in 105.1 overs (Angrikish Raghuvanshi 97, Ayush Jethwa 42, Arjun Dani 41, Omkar Malekar 31, Garv Sangwan 5/41) on the basis of first innings lead.

Gyaneshwari claims silver, bronze for Rithika

After Harshada Garud's gold, two more Indian lifters landed medals as the country recorded its best ever showing in the World junior weightlifting championships at Heraklion, Greece. Gyaneshwari Devi and V. Rithika claimed the silver and bronze medals in the women's 49kg weight category late on Monday. Gyaneshwari had a total of 156kg (including 73kg in snatch and 83kg in clean and jerk), while Rithika achieved 150kg (69kg, 81kg). The gold went to Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Windy Aisah of Indonesia. She aggregated 185kg (83kg, 102kg).

Santosh Trophy gets a fresh lease of life

The football-loving people of Malappuram made the tournament a resounding success

P.K. AJITH KUMAR
MANJERI

There were no big names. Yet, the 75th edition of the Santosh Trophy National football championship was a resounding success, with huge crowds turning up for many matches.

It was a fresh lease of life for a tournament that has lost much of its prestige and relevance. But if you were in Malappuram district this past fortnight, you would have wondered if the event had indeed become a shadow of its glorious past. That is more because of the football-loving people of Malappuram.

Crowning glory: Kerala capped a memorable run with its seventh title. • SAKEER HUSSAIN

Crowd of 27000

Some 27,000 of them were there at the Malappuram District Sports Complex Stadium, in a remote village called Payyanad, on Monday night to watch host Kerala lift the trophy by defeating Bengal 5-4 in the final (regulation time 1-1), which went all the way to a penalty shootout. The way they cheered for their team was further proof of Malappuram's love for the beautiful game.

When Muhammed Safnad scored the equaliser for Kerala, with just four remaining in extra-time, the atmosphere inside the stadium was incredible. The applause would not stop. The noise they made was deafening.

Regrettable actions

Till moments ago, all those thousands of fans had nearly given up. Regrettably, some of them – very few of them it has to be stressed – had even thrown empty plastic bottles on the field, showing their displeasure.

Thankfully, the issue didn't escalate and the focus was back on football

Just when the Bengal players felt the trophy could be theirs, Safnad struck.

The 22-year-old will never forget his goal or the way the crowds responded to it. If he is able to experience anything like this again in his career, he will be lucky.

Such moments do not happen to a player often. Such crowds are not seen often too.

Spanish clubs are looking at Indian football with interest: Jose Antonio

We can hope that they find the right conditions to come and forge partnerships, says La Liga India chief

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
KOLKATA

The growing viewership of Spain's top league, La Liga, in India is good news for the country's football. It has induced the European nation's clubs to look at the latter with more interest, according to Jose Antonio, the managing director of LaLiga India.

"The Spanish clubs are looking at India with interest and we can hope that they find the right conditions to come and forge partnerships. I feel what the clubs in Europe look for is a larger connection with the Indian fans," said Antonio in a recent interaction.

"There are a lot of Spanish players and managers in the Indian Super League and that is sending positive feedback to the La Liga clubs. Spanish clubs like Atletico Madrid are already in India and are working in partnership with Tata Football Academy.

"Another La Liga side Sevilla FC is tying up with Bengaluru FC," he added.

The Indian head also said that a La Liga side could well be touring the country next year. "We are working to bring over La Liga teams in India.

"The conversation is on for some time and we hope to have a La Liga team, not one of the top two (Real Madrid and FC Barcelona), visiting India next year," he said.

We are working to bring over La Liga teams in India. The conversation is on for some time

Antonio said that the deep emotional connection of the fans with their favourite club's colour is what creates the foundation of football and this factor will be defining the evolution of the sport in India.

No strong national league

"India did not have a strong national league until recently. So far you had the club tradition running only in Kolkata with the names like Mohun Bagan and East Bengal and somewhat with Mohammedan Sporting. In India cricket is the reference point for any sport and even there the club system is quite new," Antonio said.

"This essentially means that you are still new in the trickle-down effect on building loyalties. And again the cricket league (IPL), which draws the largest audience, here is too short to develop a long-lasting fan influence.

"So, it is still not the time to surmise whether these leagues will be growing into strong leagues," he said while analyzing the state of club football in India .

United stroll past Brentford

Salernitana holds Atalanta; Leipzig, Frankfurt stumble

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MANCHESTER

Manchester United took the sting out of its fans' latest protest against the Glazer family by easing to a 3-0 win against Brentford on Monday.

Ralf Rangnick's side won for just the second time in seven games to keep the atmosphere from turning toxic at Old Trafford.

Bruno Fernandes struck early in the first half and Cristiano Ronaldo converted a second half penalty before France defender Raphael Varane bagged his first goal for United.

Despite winning its last home game of the season, United remains in sixth place in the Premier League with two games left.

Six points adrift

It sits five points adrift of the top four with no realistic hope of qualifying for next season's Champions League.

Salernitana maintained its bold bid for Serie A survival on Monday with a 1-1 draw at Atalanta which pulled it closer to safety.

The opener: Bruno Fernandes fires in United's first against Brentford. • REUTERS

Mario Pasalic's 88th-minute leveller denied Salernitana a fourth straight win after Ederson had poked it ahead just before the half hour but the draw moved it to within two points of Cagliari, which sits just outside the relegation zone.

RB Leipzig crashed to a 3-1 defeat at 10-man Monchengladbach on Monday in the Bundesliga, while fellow Europa League semifinalists Eintracht Frankfurt also went down 2-0 at Bayer Leverskusen.

The results:

Premier League: Manchester United 3 (Fernandes 9, Ronaldo 61-pen, Varane 72) bt Brentford 0.

Serie A: Atalanta 1 (Pasalic 88) drew with Salernitana 1 (Ederson 27).

Bundesliga: Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Paulinho 18, Schick 51) bt Eintracht Frankfurt 0; Borussia M'Gladbach 3 (Embolo 17, Hofmann 45+2, 77) bt RB Leipzig 1 (Nkunku 36).

Manu, Saurabh for Junior World Cup

SHOOTING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Two of the best shooters in the country, Olympians Saurabh Chaudhary and Manu Bhaker will be back to the basics when they compete in the Junior World Cup scheduled to be staged in Suhl, Germany, from May 9 to 20. The 51-member Indian team will also have other accomplished shooters like Anish Bhanwala, Naamya Kapoor, Vivaan Kapoor, Udhayveer Sidhu, Vijayveer Sidhu, Esha Singh and Rhythm Sangwan.

Interestingly, the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) had restricted the participation of a shooter to only two World Cups in a season, with its new policy.

The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) announced that it would be taking care of the expenses of 14 shooters who would be competing in the non-Olympic events. The Union Government, through the Sports Authority of India (SAI) would be funding the expenses of the 37 shooters competing in the Olympic events.

The secretary general of the NRAI, Sultan Singh emphasised that it was important to back the young shooters in non-Olympic events and give them quality exposure.

The non-Olympic events are still part of the schedule in the World Championship and Asian Games.

Ready to shoot: It will be back to the basics for Manu and Saurabh. • FILE PHOTO

Jain University finishes on top

Kabaddi titles for Kota and Kurukshetra

KHELO VARSITIES

SPORTS REPORTER
BENGALURU

Jain University emerged the overall champion of the Khelo India University Games, which concluded here on Tuesday. The host claimed 20 gold, seven silver and five bronze medals to take the honours.

Lovely Professional University (17 gold, 15 silver, 19 bronze) and defending champion Panjab University (15 gold, 9 silver, 24 bronze) finished second and third respectively.

Siva Sridhar's feat

Jain University swimmer Siva Sridhar, with seven gold and two silver medals, finished as the most successful athlete of the championship.

Shining the brightest: The Jain varsity athletes clinched 20 gold, seven silver and five bronze medals. • K. MURALI KUMAR

In the kabaddi finals held on Tuesday, University of Kota and Kurukshetra University won the men's and women's titles respectively.

The results (finals): Kabaddi: Men: University Of Kota bt Ch Bansi Lal University, Bhiwani 52-37.

Women: Kurukshetra University bt Maharshi Dayanand University 46-19.

Football: Men: MG University bt University Of Kerala 2-0.

Entry issues mar closing ceremony

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU

Some attendees of the Khelo India University Games (KIUG) faced difficulty gaining entry to the closing ceremony at Sree Kanteerava Indoor Stadium, where Union Home Minister Amit Shah and other prominent politicians were present as guests of honour.

A few media personnel were told by the police near the entrance to remove their black face masks or black clothing items, despite the attendees undergoing a tedious accreditation process to claim their KIUG pass and separate closing ceremony pass.

The police may have believed that black masks or black clothing items may be construed as a sign of protest against the politicians.

Attempts to show the police the KIUG pass, closing ceremony pass and office identification proved to be futile as they stuck to their guns.

Complaints

There were complaints earlier in the day as well, as the stadium and nearby Cubbon Park were shut down.

These two public venues were closed for many hours before the closing ceremony was scheduled to commence.

'I just wanted to do my best'

Harshada credits her coaching staff for the improvement

Y. B. SARANGI
KOLKATA

After overcoming a swollen liver in December last, Harshada Garud never thought that within a few months she would become the first Indian to win a gold medal in the World junior weightlifting championships.

When she did, the 18-year-old spontaneously credited the coaching staff whose wholehearted backing helped the Pune girl improve her performance within a few months.

"I had an issue owing to a swollen liver. After recovering, I joined the National camp in December. Thanks to the support of our coaches, I could improve my performance quickly," Harshada told *The Hindu* from Heraklion.

Harshada. • FILE PHOTO: RITU RAJ KONWAR

From her total of 139kg in the Asian championships and the Khelo India Youth Games in early 2020, Harshada raised it 143kg at Patiala in the National championships, where she finished second in the youth division and fourth among juniors, in August 2021.

Harshada returned to competition in the Bhubaneswar Nationals in March this year and posted a snatch performance of 66kg and clean and jerk of 79kg to total 145kg and take the third place. She then lifted 153kg, including a superb snatch effort of 70kg, to win the World junior gold.

Her focus propelled Harshada to achieve her best mark, ahead of others including compatriot Anjali Patel, the current National youth champion and junior silver medallist with an aggregate of 147kg. "I had a little idea about the field. I did not have any target. I just wanted to do my best," said Harshada.

Indian hockey teams win accolades for Tokyo Games show

Three cheers: The Indian men's and women's hockey players, who produced a memorable performance at the Tokyo Olympics, were in focus at the closing ceremony attended by Amit Shah, Basavaraj Bommai, Anurag Thakur and actor Sudeep. • K. MURALI KUMAR

SPORTS REPORTER
BENGALURU

The Indian hockey teams were felicitated at the closing ceremony of the Khelo India University Games held at Sree Kanteerava Indoor Stadium here on Tuesday.

The Indian men's team had won a historic bronze at the Tokyo Olympics, while the women's team finished fourth. Union Minister of Home Affairs Amit Shah was the chief guest. Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Anurag Thakur and actor 'Kiccha' Sudeep were some of the other dignitaries presen. H. Kushi, a student of Mysore University, stole the show with a breathtaking yoga exhibition.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Tejas scalps four

Tejas Vivek's four-wicket haul (4/11) and Ishaan Nayak's 44 were instrumental in Magadi CA's seven-wicket win over Kapil CC in an under-14 match in the Tiger Cup cricket tournament on Tuesday.

The scores: U-14: Kapil 90 in 24.1 overs (Prathyush Shetty 3/24, Tejas Vivek 4/11) lost to Magadi 92/3 in 14.1 overs (Ishaan Nayak 44, Jayan 31).

U-12: PES 132/7 in 30 overs (Aniket 39) bt SRCA 65 in 21.4 overs (Atharv Sahu 3/11).

Goalless draw

Parikram FC played out a 0-0 draw with HAL FC in the BDFA A-division league championship on Tuesday.

Sree Gajanana posts win

Sree Gajanana FC defeated Bangalore Mars FC 3-1 in the BDFA B-division league championship on Tuesday.

The result:

Sree Gajanana 3 (Kalavanan 21, B. Gobinath 52, Alagaraswamy 59) bt Bangalore Mars 1 (R. Robinson 32).

Easy for FootLongs

FootLongs FC notched up a comfortable 3-0 win over Blues Football FC in the KSFA C-division league championship on Tuesday.

The results:

Alchemy International 3 (Elvis 6, Sahil Suresh Lamani 14, Shestarjune Lyngkhoi 53) bt BPSS 1 (Stallion 60).

FootLongs 3 (Nikhil Jude Mohan 39, Bharath 46, S. Lakshminarayana 53) bt Blues Football 0.

Ramar passes away

Capt. P. Ramar, former Karnataka state basketball player and coach of the Indian men's team, passed away on Tuesday. He was 75.

Ramar represented the erstwhile Mysuru state and later on coached the State men's team to a bronze medal finish at the 1997 Senior Nationals.

The Karnataka State Basketball Association condoled his death.